

title	author	description	year	city	state
Big Fish	Daniel Wallace	A dying father tells his son the mythic stories of his life and loves in rural Alabama.	1998	Spectre	Alabama
Chicken Dreaming Corn	Roy Hoffman	Immigrant Romanian Jews create a vibrant new life in Mobile at the turn of the century.	2004	Mobile	Alabama
Crazy in Alabama	Mark Childress	Comic dark novel wherein Lucille murders her violent husband in self defense, and her nephew witnesses Civil Rights battles.	1993	Industry	Alabama
Criminal Trespass	Helen Hudson	Rannie Simms leaves her rural home in the 1950s to find love and tragedy with three different men.	1985	Simms Quarter	Alabama
Dessa Rose	Sherley Anne Williams	A poet's lyrical tale of a pregnant runaway and an abandoned white plantation manager helping refugee slaves reach freedom in 1830.	1986	Marengo County	Alabama
Dogfight and Other Stories	Michael Knight	Ten stories in which ordinary people tell mythical stories of transformation on the Gulf Coast.	1996	Mobile	Alabama
Forrest Gump	Winston Groom	Forrest Gump's singular personality and innocence lead him on adventures through American history.	1986	Mobile	Alabama
Four Spirits	Sena Jeter Naslund	A powerful mosaic of narratives, from elderly women to children, Black and white citizens and believers, telling the story of four girls murdered in 1963 Birmingham.	2003	Birmingham	Alabama
Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café	Fannie Flagg	Novel about women, black and white, who fight violence with loyalty, storytelling and barbecue.	1987	Whistle Stop	Alabama
Grace	Natashia Deon	Haunting novel about outcast women, slave and free, alive and hovering spirits, before the Civil War.	2016	Faunsdale	Alabama
Hell at the Breech	Tom Franklin	historical novel based on a violent feud during the 1890s in Clarke County.	2003	Mitcham Beat	Alabama
Jealous-Hearted Me	Nancy Huddleston Packer	Family rivalries, battles of will and heart consume the characters in these linked stories.	1997	Montgomery	Alabama
Looking for Alaska	John Green	At a boarding school, teens experiment with sex, love and trouble while relying on each other.	2005	Culver Creek	Alabama
Net of Jewels	Ellen Gilchrist	A lyrical novel about young woman too intelligent for the expectations of her constricted 1950s life.	1992	Dunleith	Alabama
Run Away Home	Patricia McKissack	A classic children's novel; Sarah Jane, granddaughter of formerly enslaved Seminole/African people, sees Geronimo and his people taken as prisoners from Florida to Oklahoma; an Apache boy escapes and Sarah's family takes him in.	1997	Mount Vernon	Alabama
The Avenue: Clayton City	C Eric Lincoln	In the late 1930s, black residents of a small town reveal secrets and struggles with racism.	1988	Clayton City	Alabama
The Last Hotel for Women	Vicki Covington	For Dinah Fraley, the arrival of Freedom Riders on Mother's Day 1961 changes life forever.	1996	Birmingham	Alabama
The Watsons Go to Birmingham: 1963	Christopher Paul Curtis	The "Weird Watsons" of Flint, Michigan go south to visit their grandmother, whose church is bombed in a historic attack.	1995	Birmingham	Alabama

To Kill a Mockingbird	Harper Lee	Classic novel about a small town where a father and daughter and friends fight prejudice and falsehoods.	1960 Monroeville	Alabama
Train Whistle Guitar	Albert Murray	A young boy in a rural 1920s community learns about the blues, local legends and the landscape of history.	1974 Gasoline Point	Alabama
Flight of the Goose	Lesley Thomas	An Inupiat woman, a foreign scientist, and an Inupiaq hunter cross paths in a remote Arctic village.	2005 Nome	Alaska
Heroes of the Frontier	Dave Eggers	A mother flees her husband and life, with her two children, in an aging RV, on a chaotic journey through Alaska's hidden places.	2016 Homer	Alaska
Julie of the Wolves	Jean Craighead George	An Inuit girl runs away into the arctic wild, and learns to live with a wolf pack that becomes her family.	1972 Barrow	Alaska
Nobody Gets Out Alive	Leigh Newman	A stunning, never sentimental collection of stories about women through generations of Alaska history, stubbornly refusing to accept what is offered, always fighting for their independence with brutal humor.	2022 Diamond Lake	Alaska
Ordinary Wolves	Seth Kantner	A white boy raised in a sod igloo find himself not accepted by Inupiak culture or happy in Anchorage.	2004 Northern Alaska	Alaska
Tempting Fate	Laurie Alberts	A young woman is the sole female crewmember on a salmon boat, trying to change her life for the better.	1987 Vladimir	Alaska
The Cloud Atlas	Liam Callanan	A young soldier finds and detonates hot air balloons loaded with Japanese explosives during WWII.	2004 Aleutian Islands	Alaska
The Curious Eat Themselves	John Straley	The second in a mystery series featuring investigator Cecil Younger, trying to find out why a female cook at a remote mining site has been killed.	1993 Sitka	Alaska
The Man Who Swam with Beavers	Nancy Lord	Stories inspired by Native Alaskan myths about survival, humans, animals, and nature.	2001 Homer	Alaska
The Snow Child	Eowyn Ivey	In 1920, a childless couple homesteading in Alaska create a girl in the snow, and believe she comes to life.	2012 Alaska Territory	Alaska
Two Old Women: An Alaska Legend of Betrayal	Velma Wallis	based on an Athabascan legend, two women are abandoned by their migrating tribe and must survive winter.	1993 Upper Yukon River	Alaska
White Fang	Jack London	A wild wolf-dog loses his mother, survives violence and cruelty, and finally learns to trust one man.	1906 Yukon Territory	Alaska
Animal Dreams	Barbara Kingsolver	Sisters Codi and Hallie return to their home, threatened by a copper mine, and fight to save the land.	1990 Grace	Arizona
Ganado Red	Susan Lowell	Linked stories and novella set in the desert, featuring a beautiful rug woven by an elderly Navajo woman.	1988 Navajo Country	Arizona
Going Nowhere Fast	Gar Anthony Haywood	A retired police detective and his wife take their Airstream on vacation, but discover a murder.	1994 Grand Canyon	Arizona
Half-Broke Horses	Jeannette Walls	Novel based on Lily Casey Smith, a frontier woman who left Texas for Red Lake, where she taught school and ran a ranch.	2009 Red Lake	Arizona

La Maravilla	Alfredo Veja Jr.	A young boy raised by a Spanish grandmother and Yaqui grandfather in a settlement outside Phoenix finds sadness, hilarity and love.	1993 Buckeye	Arizona
Night Journey	Murad Kalam	A young black man becomes a boxer to escape his life in a South Phoenix neighborhood in a fierce debut.	2003 Phoenix	Arizona
Skinwalkers	Tony Hillerman	Jim Chee and Joe Leaphorn, Navajo Tribal Policemen, investigate witchcraft and murder.	1986 Window Rock	Arizona
The Cactus League	Emily Nemens	A multiphonic chorus of voices tell the story of spring training for a Major League Baseball team, in the desert dreams of a team and the surrounding community depending on so much.	2020 Scottsdale	Arizona
The Flower in the Skull	Kathleen Alcalá	An Opatá woman from Mexico's Sonoran Desert raises her children in America, always missing her home.	1998 Tucson	Arizona
The Iguana Killer: Twelve Stories of the Heart	Alberto Rios	Young men whose lives encompass landscapes in Mexico, travels across the border, and life in Arizona.	1984 Rio Rico	Arizona
The Monkey Wrench Gang	Edward Abbey	Ecology-minded saboteurs set out to destroy the Glen Canyon Dam.	1975 Colorado River	Arizona
The Quick and the Dead	Joy Williams	Alice and Annabel are teenagers navigating a desert full of animals in danger, and dangerous human emotions.	2000 Phoenix	Arizona
The Talker	Mary Sojourner	Independent older women seek sisterhood, story and companionship in the Arizona desert.	2001 Prescott	Arizona
Tombstone Courage	JA Jance	Joanna Brady has just been elected sheriff of her hometown, and a deep mine holding two bodies leads her to uncover decades of secrets in this long-running series.	1994 Bisbee	Arizona
Upright Women Wanted	Sarah Gailey	Award-winning speculative novel set in a future where young women are forced to marry, where one woman escapes with a gun-toting librarian, where fascism must be fought through story.	2020 Valentine	Arizona
Arkansas	John Brandon	Young men drifting through life begin a drug distribution ring and try to survive the danger of themselves.	2008 Little Rock	Arkansas
Frog Gig and Other Stories	Speer Morgan	Powerful stories of men and women, cats and frogs, love and death, vibrant across the state.	2010 Fort Smith	Arkansas
Living in Little Rock with Miss Little Rock	Jack Butler	An attorney and a beauty queen marry and shock the city with their love and politics.	1993 Little Rock	Arkansas
Miss Pearly's Girls	ReShonda Tate Billingsley	When their mother is diagnosed with cancer, four daughters make their way to the home where she raised them, where she gave them everything they needed to fly.	2022 Smackover	Arkansas

Rope of Wind and Other Stories	Henry Dumas	Stories about African-American life in rural Arkansas, published posthumously after Dumas was killed by a New York policeman in a “mistaken identity” shooting.	1979 Sweet Home	Arkansas
Sugar	Bernice McFadden	Sugar, a former prostitute, moves next door to Pearl, who lost her daughter to a murder, in a portrait of redemption.	2000 Bigelow	Arkansas
The Choring of the Trees	Donald Harington	Affecting novel based on a 1914 incident when an Ozark man was sentenced to the electric chair.	1991 Stay More	Arkansas
True Grit	Charles Portis	Mattie Ross and Rooster Cogburn chase her father’s killer during winter in the Choctaw Nation.	1968 Yell County	Arkansas
A Child Out of Alcatraz	Tara Ison	A young girl born on the island in 1945 whose father is a prison guard watches her family fall apart.	1997 Alcatraz Island	California
A Place for Us	Fatima Farheen Mirza	At a wedding, three siblings – Huda, Hadia, Amar – reflect on their lives with Indian-born parents, on the secrets and loyalty of their family, on how to navigate two cultures with their own true desires, in this inspired, lyrical debut novel.	2018 Fremont	California
A River of Stars	Vanessa Hua	Two very different women, from very different parts of China, are waiting to give birth in a home turned maternity ward, so their babies will be American; betrayal and loyalty, comic timing and heartbreak ensue.	2018 Chino Hills	California
A War of Eyes and Other Stories	Wanda Coleman	Thirty-one stories of poetic resonance about black Angelenos, young and old, lovers and predators.	1988 Watts	California
Afterparties	Anthony Veasna So	This astonishing debut, published posthumously, weaves together stories of Cambodian parents who survived the killing fields, and their children who navigate with wry humor their lives in the Central Valley.	2021 Stockton	California
America is Not the Heart	Elaine Castillo	A young woman leaves the Philippines for America, and her unforgettable voice and life story make for a revelatory and often hilarious debut novel.	2018 Milpitas	California
American Dream Machine	Matthew Specktor	The story of an iconic agent who remade himself after leaving New York, told by his son in a panoramic view of LA.	2013 Hollywood	California
American Son	Brian Ascalon Roley	Two brothers of a Filipina mother and American military father grow up amid gang fights and dog breeders.	2001 Venice	California
American Woman	Susan Choi	Fictionalization of Patty Hearst’s 1974 kidnapping, and a young Japanese-American woman’s role.	2003 Berkeley	California
Angels Crest	Leslie Schwartz	A boy disappears in the snowy mountain woods, and the whole town searches for him with his mother.	2004 Angeles Crest	California

Ask the Dust	John Fante	Classic novel of Arturo Bandini, young Italian-American writer, living and drinking in Depression LA.	1939 Los Angeles	California
Bird Songs Don't Lie	Gordon Lee Johnson	An exceptional story collection featuring many characters living on a reservation, tales of history, noir, comedy and melancholy remembrance, in a distinctive place full of layers of life.	2018 Pala	California
Birds of Paradise Lost	Andrew Lam	Revelatory stories featuring men and women who crossed oceans from Vietnam to America, and their children, tales of regret and uprising, new roots and food.	2013 San Jose	California
Blood Daughters	Marcos M. Villatoro	A dead girl is found at the border, and Romilia Chacon, Salvadoran-American FBI agent, investigates.	2011 Imperial County	California
Bone	Faye Myenne Ng	A young woman remembers her family's past in China and life in America, with a sister's death and a father's secrets.	1993 San Francisco	California
Breathing, in Dust	Tim Z. Hernandez	In a Central Valley farming town, a young man makes sense of poverty and cruelty through lyrical stories.	2010 Orosi	California
Brother and the Dancer	Keenan Norris	Toussaint, son of a professor, and Erycha, aspiring ballerina, grow up together but lead very different lives in an African-American community in inland southern California.	2013 Highland	California
Brothers and Sisters	Bebe Moore Campbell	After Rodney King's beating and the post-trial riots, Angelenos must learn to trust each other.	1994 Los Angeles	California
California Girl	T. Jefferson Parker	A beautiful girl is killed 1968 in citrus-growing land, and two men are obsessed with finding her murderer.	2004 Tustin	California
Cannery Row	John Steinbeck	During the Depression on a street lined with sardine canneries, various dreamers navigate life, love and science.	1945 Monterey	California
Catalina	Liska Jacobs	Elsa, fired from her museum job, sleeping with her boss, takes a reckless trip with old friends to an island where her reckless despair splinters everything.	2017 Catalina Island	California
Caveat	Laura Kalpakian	In 1916, in a desert town, a bitter man marries the local schoolteacher, and becomes a rainmaker who exacts revenge.	1998 St. Elmo	California
China Dolls	Lisa See	Three young Chinese-American women become nightclub entertainers in 1930s, and after Pearl Harbor, face betrayal.	2014 San Francisco	California
Chosen People	Karen Grigsby Bates	African-American elite society is Alex's column beat, but after a writer's murder, she becomes a sleuth.	2006 Los Angeles	California
City of Night	John Rechy	This classic novel features a young Mexican-American man who leaves Texas for the night life of sex and intimacy with men whose portraits are rendered with indelible imagery.	1963 Hollywood Boulevard	California

Counterfeit	Kirsten Chen	An entrancing, smart novel with great language and characters who fully upend stereotypes of Asian-American and Chinese-born women, making perfect satirical fun of the notions of American dreams, hard work, and class.	2021 San Francisco	California
Dahlia Season	Myriam Gurba	Desiree Garcia is a one-of-a-kind narrator, Chicana and goth and always searching for kindred spirits until she finds Rae, in this novel populated by southern Californians vivid and singular.	2007 Long Beach	California
Daughter Mine	Herbert Gold	a man discovers a daughter he didn't know he had, whose mother was a Summer of Love drifter.	2000 San Francisco	California
Devil in a Blue Dress	Walter Mosley	Easy Rawlins, a young black veteran in 1940s LA, searches for a beautiful mystery woman involved with politicians and mobsters.	1995 Los Angeles	California
Drift	Victoria Patterson	Linked stories about vivid characters alienated from the wealthy enclave on the coast, searching for themselves.	2009 Newport Beach	California
Eat the Mouth That Feeds You	Carribeana Fragoza	A distinctive story collection featuring voices of fiercely-independent daughters, mothers, rebels and outliers negotiating identity and family in a changing community.	2021 South El Monte	California
Edgewater Angels	Sandro Meallet	In a port community, a young man experiences gang life, petty crime, but also classical music and books.	2001 San Pedro	California
Elsewhere, California	Dana Johnson	Avery is an African-American artist negotiating life, art, and love with memories of her childhood.	2012 Beachwood Canyon	California
Esperanza Rising	Pam Munoz Ryan	Young adult novel about a wealthy family fleeing Mexico after violence, working in a Depression-era farm camp.	2000 Arvin	California
Every Night is Ladies' Night	Michael-Jaime Becerra	Ten evocative linked stories of teenagers, mechanics and mariachis, family and love in a Mexican-American community.	2004 El Monte	California
Fat City	Leonard Gardner	Classic novel of a former boxer fallen to alcohol and day labor, striving for a comeback, who meets a young contender.	1969 Stockton	California
Fiona & Jane	Jean Chen Ho	A stunning tender and fierce evocation of the power of female friendship, how for Fiona and Jane their younger selves expand and circle and return back to childhood intimacy as home – unforgettable.	2022 Los Angeles	California
Follow Her Home	Steph Cha	Juniper Song, a young Korean-American woman, is drawn into mystery and murder in a compelling debut novel.	2013 Park La Brea, Los Angeles	California
Friends and Lovers	Eric Jerome Dickey	Four young black Angelenos search for love, companionship and success in the city.	1997 Los Angeles	California

Gloryland	Shelton Johnson	Elijah Yancy, born on Emancipation Day, 1863, leaves South Carolina, walks to Nebraska, joins the US Cavalry, leading him to Yosemite in 1903 to find his true home, in this astonishing novel.	2009	California
Godshot	Chelsea Bieker	In drought-stricken, rural California, a community controlled by a charismatic preacher, Lacey May's mother disappears, her grandmother Cherry tries to help, and teenage girls are forced into pregnancy, until rebellion erupts.	2019 Reedley	California
Golden Days	Carolyn See	A single mother with two daughters lives in a beautiful, wild canyon, observes with singular humor human attempts at success, and then witnesses the aftermath of nuclear detonation.	1986 Topanga Canyon	California
Gordo	Jaime Cortez	During the 1970s, a young boy watches everything in the labor camp where he lives, including his father's attempts to make him a man, his neighbors' desires and fights and sadnesses, his friends' ideas of defiance and revolution, in this wonderful debut.	2021 Watsonville	California
Grand Avenue: A Novel in Stories	Greg Sarris	A neighborhood populated by Americans of Pomo, Mexican, African and Portuguese descent, where healers, spells, horses and cures abound.	1994 Santa Rosa	California
Hank & Chloe	Jo-Ann Mapson	A woman horse trainer and her college professor fall in love in a rustic southern California canyon.	1993 Santiago Canyon	California
Hard Laughter	Anne Lamott	A family cares for a father with a brain tumor, mulling Death, Why, and Loving, with dreams and laughter.	1979 Marin County	California
Homeland	Cris Mazza	A family devastated by death moves through rural landscapes, encountering day laborers, hunters, searching for home.	2004 San Diego	California
House of Sand and Fog	Andre Dubus III	A former Iranian colonel moves into a foreclosed home, but the California woman who grew up there wants it back, enlisting her dangerous lover.	1999 Contra Costa County	California
I Hotel	Karen Tei Yamashita	Ten novellas about the International Hotel, heart of the Asian-American Movement in the 1960s and 70s.	2010 San Francisco	California
If He Hollers Let Him Go	Chester Himes	Classic novel of an African-American man facing violent racism in naval shipyards of WWII LA.	1945 Los Angeles	California
In the Palomar Arms	Hilma Wolitzer	Daphne, a young kitchen aide at a nursing home, searches for love and joy while witnessing death.	1983 Ventura	California
Inner City Blues	Paula Woods	During the 1992 civil unrest, Charlotte Justice, an African-American detective, investigates the murder of a radical who murdered her own husband and daughter.	1999 South Los Angeles	California
Into the Beautiful North	Luis Alberto Urrea	A young Mexican woman travels to Tijuana and California seeking seven men, including her father, to help defend their village.	2009 San Diego	California

Iron Shoes	Molly Giles	An unlikely coming-of-age for a librarian who realizes that her “iron shoes” are her parents, in a novel told with humor.	2000 Marin County	California
Island of the Blue Dolphins	Scott O’Dell	A Native American girl, left behind when her people flee their island, teaches herself to hunt, fish, and survive wild dogs, who eventually become her allies in this classic novel.	1960 San Nicolas Island	California
Like Normal People	Karen Bender	Three generations of women recount their complicated lives in one day while searching for Lena, who is disabled.	2000 Culver City	California
Little & Lion	Brandy Colbert	Siblings Suzette and Lionel are reunited when she returns from boarding school, their unique relationship strong, but when mental illness, crushes and perhaps true love complicate everything, they have to fight for each other.	2020 Los Angeles	California
Living Up the Street	Gary Soto	Evocative and hilarious stories about Chicano characters growing up amid playgrounds, farms and factories.	1985 Fresno	California
Locas	Yxta Maya Murray	Two young Chicana women rebel against their roles in the neighborhood hierarchy of gangs, boxing and drugs.	1997 Echo Park	California
Macho!	Victor Villasenor	Roberto Garcia leaves Michoacan at 17 for fieldwork in California, keeping his dignity in the first novel by the pioneering Chicano author.	1973 Oceanside	California
Masha’allah and Other Stories	Mariah K. Young	Pit-bull breeders, day laborers, marijuana growers and others keep family and love intact.	2012 Oakland	California
Mecca	Susan Straight	My novel wherein Johnny Frias, seventh generation Californian, patrols the freeways near where he killed a man years ago in a canyon, while Ximena, recent arrival from Oaxaca, struggles to survive in the desert.	2022 Chino Hills	California
Michael Tolliver Lives	Armistead Maupin	Tolliver survived the AIDS epidemic, and considers his many friends and a very changed city.	2007 San Francisco	California
Mildred Pierce	James M. Cain	Vivid novel about a divorced woman during the Depression whose vision and hard work lead to riches and betrayal.	1941 Glendale	California
Nightcrawling	Leila Mottley	Debut bestseller of siblings Kiara and Marcus and the abandoned boy they rescue to form a family threatened by violence and police corruption.	2022 Oakland	California
Ordinary Money	Louis B. Jones	Two friends, a housepainter and carpenter, think counterfeit millions might bring salvation.	1990 Marin County	California
Our Ecstatic Days	Steve Erickson	A young mother’s labor brings about a fantastical lake in the center of the city, and three years later, she must dive there in an act of mythic reinvention for all.	2005 La Cienega Boulevard	California

Our Lady of the Artichokes	Katherine Vaz	Portuguese-American characters try to keep their traditions alive, negotiating American society.	2008 San Leandro	California
Paint It Black	Janet Fitch	During the punk-rock 1980s, a young runaway loves a brilliant painter who kills himself in Twenty-Nine Palms.	2006 Los Angeles	California
Panorama City	Antoine Wilson	The chaotic odyssey of Oppen, his son, lovers, father, deaths and rebirths, and travel from Madera to The Valley.	2012 Panorama City	California
Pay It Forward	Catherine Ryan Hyde	The son of a hardworking single mother meets a teacher, a scarred Vietnam veteran, who challenges him to change the world.	1999 Atascadero	California
Phantoms	Christian Kiefer	Intricately-braided novel of Ray Takahashi, veteran of WWII, taken from his home orchard and interned in Tule Lake, and John Frazier, veteran of Vietnam, returned to the same contested farmland.	2019 Newcastle	California
Play It as It Lays	Joan Didion	Maria, confined to a mental hospital, recalls the betrayals of her director husband, and loss of her daughter.	1970 Beverly Hills	California
Pocho	Jose Antonio Villarreal	A pioneer Chicano novel wherein a Mexican cavalryman flees to Brawley in 1920, and whose family travels the state as migrant workers as his son relates his dual heritage and political consciousness.	1959 Santa Clara	California
Point Dume	Katie Arnoldi	Surfers, marijuana growers, native residents and new money collide in the beauty and danger of the famous beach.	2010 Malibu	California
Radiant Fugitives	Nawaaz Ahmed	Three women – Seema, nine months pregnant, a consultant, her sister, a devoutly religious doctor, and their mother, unwell and missing her daughters, are together for the birth of Seema’s son, unlayering their histories as Muslim Indian family.	2021 San Francisco	California
Raising Wrecker	Summer Wood	In 1965 San Francisco, a boy is abandoned, but eventually raised in the redwoods by a family of loving eccentrics.	2011 Humboldt	California
Ramona	Helen Hunt Jackson	Often called “the first novel about southern California, the story of Ramona, a Native/Scottish American girl, depicts prejudice and hardship in contested rancho lands.	1884 Temecula	California
Rope Burns: Stories from the Corner	FX Toole	Brilliantly-rendered stories of boxers, trainers, cut men, and their families, with the violence of bouts and the melancholy of daily life.	2000 Downtown Los Angeles	California
Round Rock	Michelle Huneven	Two recovering alcoholics struggle with belief, memory and sobriety in a beautiful citrus-growing valley.	1997 Ojai	California

Rumors of Peace	Ella Leffland	A lyrical novel in which a girl in a Bay Area town is terrified after Pearl Harbor is bombed and war begins.	1979 Martinez	California
Sister Noon	Karen Joy Fowler	A panoramic novel of the 1890s in a city where women love books, raise orphans, survive brothels and men.	2001 San Francisco	California
Still Water Saints	Alex Espinoza	Perla, whose botanica offers solace and danger to residents of a largely Latino town, remembers her own past in this lyrical novel.	2004 Agua Mansa	California
Stolen Pleasures: Selected Stories	Gina Berriault	A collection by a master of economy, stories of grief, isolation, and beauty of landscape.	2011 San Francisco	California
Stone Arabia	Dana Spiotta	A sister and brother relive their lives in 1970s LA, obsessed with music, art, and their immense love for each other.	2011 Rustic Canyon	California
Suckerpunch	David Hernandez	Two teenaged brothers plan retribution on a road trip to search for the abusive father who abandoned them.	2007 Cerritos	California
Summer of the Big Bachi	Naomi Hirahara	Mas Arai, Japanese-American gardener, investigates the murder of a man who once lived in Hiroshima, whose secrets from 1945 are entwined with his own.	2004 Pasadena	California
T is for Trespass	Sue Grafton	Kinsey Milhone, a private detective, fights a sociopathic evil in fictional Santa Teresa.	2015 Goleta	California
Tapping the Source	Kem Nunn	A young surfer becomes entangled with drugs, murder, and truth in this singular debut novel.	1984 Huntington Beach	California
The Black Dahlia	James Ellroy	Dark atmospheric novel based on the 1947 murder of Elizabeth Short, starlet, in a panoramic view of Los Angeles	1987 Los Angeles	California
The Book of Dead Birds	Gayle Brandeis	A girl of Korean and African-American heritage rescues birds in a lyrical evocation of desert life and motherhood.	2003 Salton Sea	California
The Book of Want	Daniel Olivas	Conchita, Belen, Manny and Julieta search in surreal and fantastic ways for love and fulfillment.	2011 Los Angeles	California
The Care and Feeding of Exotic Pets	Diana Wagman	A dark, comic novel about a divorced mother, her teenaged daughter, and a hapless kidnapper with an iguana.	2012 Silver Lake	California
The Color Midnight Made	Andrew Winer	Two boys, Conrad and Loop, roam shipyards and streets, dealing with racism and family trouble.	2002 Alameda	California
The Crying of Lot 49	Thomas Pynchon	Oedipa Maas navigates deceit, politics, real estate, and international conspiracy, while her husband is lost to LSD.	1965 Kinneret-Among-the-Pines	California
The Day of the Locust	Nathanael West	A young painter watches the American Dream become so elusive as to incite violence and chaos.	1939 Hollywood	California

The Death and Life of Bobby Z	Don Winslow	A Marine vet is forced to impersonate a legendary drug smuggler, in an epic novel that travels through from California beaches to Baja, Mexico.	2006 Laguna Beach	California
The Faith Healer of Olive Avenue	Manuel Munoz	Linked stories of magic, sadness and love in several generations of a Mexican-American town.	2007 Fresno	California
The Gangster We Are All Looking For	Le Thi Diem Thuy	A Vietnamese-American family tries to maintain love in this lyrical, ethereal novel.	2003 San Diego	California
The God of War	Marisa Silver	In 1978, Ares and Malcolm live in a desert trailer with their mother, navigating survival with nature and ferocity.	2008 Salton Sea	California
The Golden State	Lydia Kiesling	A young mother flees her troubled marriage in the Bay Area, traveling with her toddler to her ancestral rural home in northern California, in this prescient debut novel.	2018 Alturas	California
The Jasmine Trade	Denise Hamilton	Eve Diamond, a reporter, investigates a girl's death, discovering "parachute kids," whose wealthy Chinese parents live far from California.	2001 San Gabriel	California
The Jook	Gary Phillips	Noir novel in the hard-boiled tradition featuring a former NFL star named Zelmot Raines who becomes entangled in crime and passion.	1999 Los Angeles	California
The Joy Luck Club	Amy Tan	A novel of four Chinese women playing mah jong, telling stories of loss, and loving their children in unique ways.	1989 San Francisco	California
The Lady in the Lake	Raymond Chandler	After Pearl Harbor, in the mountains east of LA, Philip Marlowe searches for two missing women who may be murdered.	1943 Lake Arrowhead	California
The Last Coyote	Michael Connelly	Detective Harry Bosch investigates the murder of his own mother, a call girl, death that left him orphaned.	1995 Los Angeles	California
The Last Story of Mina Lee	Nancy Jooyoun Kim	A powerful novel about a daughter who must reconstruct her mother's past – orphaned during the Korean War, undocumented in LA, and working at a market – after she finds her mother dead.	2020 Los Angeles	California
The Lockhart Women	Mary Camarillo	A vibrant portrait of 1980s southern California, a newly-divorced mother and two daughters trying to survive faithless men, economic downturns, and violence.	2021 Huntington Beach	California
The Loss of Leon Meed	Josh Emmons	The brief dreamlike visitations of an elderly man lead to ten tales of strange losses and redemptions among residents of the town.	2005 Eureka	California
The Luminous Heart of Jonah S.	Gina Nahai	In the Iranian-Jewish community of LA, one family's epic history reveals belief and betrayal.	2014 Holmby Hills	California
The Madonnas of Echo Park	Brando Skyhorse	Men and women, day laborers and cooks and dreamers, on daily quests for their places in the world.	2010 Echo Park	California

The Maltese Falcon	Dashiell Hammet	Sam Spade is hired to find a missing girl, his partner is killed, and a jeweled statue is the real quarry.	1930 San Francisco	California
The Man Who Guarded the Bomb	Gregory Orfalea	Stories of bitter loss and redemption set in various locales, including Disneyland and California.	2010 Anaheim	California
The Mistress of Spices	Chitra Divakaruni	Tilo, an Indian-born woman runs a mystical spice shop, and falls in love with a Native American man.	1997 Oakland	California
The Mothers	Brit Bennett	A young woman whose mother has died negotiates grief, loss and love in her close-knit religious community.	2016 Oceanside	California
The Nakers	Lisa Glatt	The entwined lives of a young girl injured in a hit-and-run, and the drunk driver who fled, amid 1970s culture.	2015 Manhattan Beach	California
The Other Americans	Laila Lalami	A multitude of voices tell their stories centered around the hit-and-run death of a beloved Moroccan father in the desert community in this award-winning chorale novel.	2019 Yucca Valley	California
The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake	Aimee Bender	Rosie, nine, can taste vividly the emotions of those she loves in the foods they prepare.	2010 Los Angeles	California
The People of Paper	Salvador Plascencia	The characters rebel against the author, a chorale creating their own stories of love, lust and community.	2005 El Monte	California
The Player	Michael Tolkin	A young studio executive is obsessed with power, his insecurity leading to murder in this darkly comic vision.	1988 Hollywood	California
The Realm of Hungry Spirits	Lorraine Lopez	Marina Lucero, a teacher, opens her house to people who need guidance and spiritual help, from Buddhism to Santeria, in this often hilarious, deeply-felt novel of love and forgiveness.	2011 Sylmar	California
The Refugees	Viet Thanh Nguyen	Stories of families that fled war in Vietnam, and their often-haunted new lives in America.	2017 San Jose	California
The Republic of East LA	Luis J. Rodriguez	Twelve vivid stories of characters ranging from abuelas to steelworkers, navigating love and survival.	2002 Boyle Heights	California
The Son of Good Fortune	Lysley Tenorio	A singular novel, in which Excel and his mother Maxima, a former movie star in the Philippines, quest to find their new identities as Americans, from northern California to the southern desert.	2020 Colma	California
The Song is You	Megan Abbott	In 1951, a beautiful actress disappears, and her friend enlists help in a thrilling paean to stylistic noir novels.	2007 Hollywood	California
The Story of a Marriage	Andrew Sean Greer	Pearlie Cook, in 1953, discovers secrets about her beloved husband's life during WWII.	2008 San Francisco	California
The Tattooed Soldier	Hector Tobar	Two Guatemalan men, homeless widower and death-squad soldier, seek revenge as the 1992 riots begin.	1995 MacArthur Park	California
The Underground Man	Ross MacDonald	As fire rages in the hills, Lew Archer searches for a missing child, investigating greed and murder.	1971 Montecito	California

The Walking	Laleh Khadivi	Saladin, a young Kurdish boy who must flee Iran in 1979 tries to find his place in the foreign lands of LA.	2013 Los Angeles	California
The White Boy Shuffle	Paul Beatty	Precision satire about “the funny cool black guy” surviving a move to a different LA neighborhood.	1996 Santa Monica	California
There There	Tommy Orange	A gathering like no other, twelve indigenous characters all coming together for a powwow, travelling from different places and times and memories, a singular chorale novel with layers of history, loss, redemption, a wholly original debut.	2018 Oakland	California
Thicker Than Water	Kathryn Harrison	A young girl is intensely damaged by selfish parents in 1960s southern California.	1991 Bel Air	California
This Book Will Save Your Life	A.M. Homes	A wealthy, isolated day trader who rarely leaves his house sees a sinkhole open in his yard, and when a horse falls inside, rescue is inevitable.	2006 Los Angeles	California
Trespassers Welcome Here	Karen Karbo	Soviet émigrés move through the city seeking love, work, success and refuge.	1989 Wilshire District, Los Angeles	California
Under the Feet of Jesus	Helena Maria Viramontes	An undocumented family works in peach orchards and vineyards, where a daughter is angry about injustice, falling in love with a young man poisoned by pesticides.	1995 Buttonwillow	California
Understand This	Jervey Tervalon	Amid gang violence and addiction, teenagers survive with grace and sharp tongued-humor.	1992 South-Central Los Angeles	California
Way Past Cool	Jess Mowry	A young skateboarder moves through streets filled with gangs, danger, friends and enemies.	1993 Oakland	California
Weetzie Bat	Francesca Lia Block	Beloved young-adult novel set in a dreamlike jacaranda-bloomed LA where young people form their own family.	1989 Hollywood	California
What Makes Sammy Run?	Budd Schulberg	Novel of the dark rags-to-riches journey of a Hollywood mogul based on the author’s father.	1941 Hollywood	California
Willie Boy: A Desert Manhunt	Harry Lawton	Controversial novel based on a 1909 story of a Chemehuevi man pursued by a posse in the desert.	1960 Morongo	California
Woman No. 17	Edan Lepucki	The intersection of a young artist from Berkeley and a writer who needs a nanny turns dark with betrayal.	2017 Hollywood Hills	California
Wrack and Ruin	Don Lee	Two brothers, a farmer of Brussels sprouts and a Hollywood dealer, unleash lunacy along the Pacific coast.	2008 Rosarita Bay	California
Among the Lesser Gods	Margo Catts	A granddaughter retreats to the mountains after a broken heart; her grandmother’s no-nonsense ranching life offers redemption, and a chance for starting over.	2019 Leadville	Colorado
Angle of Repose	Wallace Stegner	A historian estranged from his son writes about frontier history as experienced by his grandparents.	1971 Leadville	Colorado
Happy Landing	Lenora Mattingly Weber	A classic, beautifully told children’s novel of a family making a desolate ranch into a home.	1941 Antelope	Colorado

Hell's Bottom, Colorado	Laura Pritchett	Ten interwoven stories about a family of cattle ranchers living in the shadow of the Rockies.	2001 Hell's Bottom	Colorado
Little Miss Strange	Joanna Rose	A daughter of free-love hippies grows up in a community that offers both love and danger, in the 1970s, in this affecting debut novel.	1997 Denver	Colorado
Plainsong	Kent Haruf	In the northeastern prairie, a small town is home to a teacher, his two sons, a pregnant teenager, and the elderly brothers who shelter her on their ranch.	1999 Holt	Colorado
Sabrina & Corina	Kali Fajardo-Anstine	Several generations of strong women – Latina and indigenous, mixed-race mothers and daughters rooted in Colorado, search for home in the world, fierce and loyal, in an award-winning book.	2019 Denver	Colorado
Second Hoeing	Hope Williams Sykes	A classic novel of deep hardship in turn of the century prairie farmlands, as the daughter of German immigrants wants more than beet farming and constant poverty – she wants love and acceptance.	1935 Laporte	Colorado
The Dog Stars	Peter Heller	After an epidemic erased 99% of the US population, a man and his dog are barricaded, but still venture out into beauty.	2012 Denver	Colorado
The Mineral Palace	Heidi Julavits	During the Depression, a woman is estranged from her husband, throwing her energies into her new town's life.	2000 Pueblo	Colorado
The Mountain Lion	Jean Stafford	A sister and brother spend much of their childhood on their uncle's isolated ranch in this classic novel.	1947 Rocky Mountains	Colorado
Watershed	Percival Everett	Tense novel of a black hydrologist doing battle with FBI agents over toxic dumping on Native American reservation land.	1996 Plata	Colorado
When the Legends Die	Hal Borland	The timeless, heartbreaking novel of Thomas Black Bull, raised in the old Ute mountain ways, orphaned at nine, journeying through reservation schools, violent rodeo life, throughout America, but always yearning for the young bear who was his spirit companion.	1963 Bear Mountain	Colorado
Wyoming	JP Gritton	A road trip of possible salvation in 1988 for a man whose wife left him, whose truck is loaded with his brother's marijuana, in this atmospheric surprising debut novel of the prairies and mountains.	2019 Longmont	Colorado
Last Night at the Lobster	Stewart O'Nan	On the last day before closing, Manny, manager at Red Lobster, treats his staff like the family they have become.	2007 New Britain	Connecticut
Masters of Illusions: A Novel of the Connecticut Circus Fire	Mary-Ann Tirone Smith	A vivid historical novel based on the conflagration that killed hundreds of people in a big-top tent.	1994 Hartford	Connecticut

On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous	Ocean Vuong	Devastating novel written as letters to the narrator's mother – she who left Vietnam, whose violence scars him, who cannot read what he writes; he who loves other men, whose elegant prose is searing and precise.	2019 Hartford	Connecticut
Reservation Road	John Burnham Schwartz	After a young boy is killed by a hit-and-run, his father, his mother, and the driver descend into grief and chaos.	1998 Stamford	Connecticut
Revolutionary Road	Richard Yates	In a manicured suburb, a marriage implodes in this quietly devastating novel of how easily love turns bitter.	1961 Revolutionary Hill Estates	Connecticut
Talent	Juliet Lapidos	A sharp satirical look at academia, through Anna, a PhD student for the last eight years, and tricksterism, through Helen, niece of a famous writer, as they encounter each other and navigate their own possible successes.	2019 New Haven	Connecticut
The Ice Storm	Rick Moody	Suburban couples experiment with infidelity, while their children experiment with drugs and ideas of love.	1994 New Canaan	Connecticut
The Invaders	Karolina Waclawiak	Two people in comic rebellion against upper-class ritual in a place where they don't fit.	2015 Little Neck Cove	Connecticut
The Stepford Wives	Ira Levin	In the fictional, idyllic town of Stepford, women are terrifyingly perfect and impossibly submissive to husbands.	1972 Wilton	Connecticut
Long Distance Life	Marita Golden	A black family leaves small-town North Carolina for the city in a novel encompassing 70 years of American history through the eyes of mothers, sons and daughters.	1995 Washington	D.C.
The Book of Unknown Americans	Cristina Henriquez	People who left Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and other countries for difficult work and new lives in America tell their stories.	2014 Newark	Delaware
The Saint of Lost Things	Christopher Castellani	In 1953, Maddalena Grasso and others reflect on what they lost when they left Italy for America.	2005 Wilmington	Delaware
Eighteen Acres	Nicolle Wallace	The first woman President of the US, and her staff, face chaos in both family politics and national politics in this novel by a former White House staffer.	2010 Washington	District of Columbia
Grief	Andrew Holleran	A beautiful, melancholy slim novel, story of a man mourning lives lost to age and AIDS, his movements through the architecture of the city, of history, of sadness.	2006 Washington	District of Columbia

Training School for Negro Girls	Camille Acker	Stories that gather narratives from wide-ranging voices – schoolgirls and teachers, young women trying to rise up in the world, trying to seize the prize of keeping your identity while flying high, in this collection.	2018 Washington	District of Columbia
Ghost Summer	Tananarive Due	Stories of a small community haunted by literal and imagined spirits, set in a future of Otherness.	2015 Gracetown	Florida
Hard Aground	James W. Hall	The Tyler brothers fight villains, search for buried treasure, and consider pioneer violence in a wild state, somehow poetic.	1993 Miami	Florida
How to Leave Hialeah	Jennine Capo Crucet	Vivid stories in which Cuban-Americans in a tight-knit community share laughter, pride and melancholy.	2009 Hialeah	Florida
If I Survive You	Jonathan Escoffery	A hilarious, unique debut of the son of Jamaican immigrants, Trelawny, his brother and cousins and parents, his inventive attempts at navigating the constant warfare of racial identity, financial desperation, and his own heart.	2022 Cutler Bay	Florida
In the Time of the Feast of Flowers	Tina Egnoski	In a small town full of lush beauty and boredom, teenage best friends Abby and Dana experiment with dangerous behavior until a crime tests their loyalty to each other and to home.	2011 Melbourne	Florida
Jesus Boy	Preston Allen	A teenager raised in a strict black church community falls in love with a widow in a comic, searching novel of faith, sex and the Holy Ghost.	2010 Miami	Florida
Killing Mister Watson	Peter Matthiessen	Based on the legend of Edgar Watson, Scottish-American adventurer and murderer, who dominates life on the southwest coast and makes countless enemies.	1990 Chokoloskee Bay	Florida
Marielitos, Balseros and Other Exiles	Cecilia Rodriguez Milanes	Tender and lyric stories about family loyalty and striving among Cuban refugees arriving in two generations, settling in various areas of Miami and environs.	2009 Homestead	Florida
Miami Blues	Charles Willeford	Detective Hoke Moseley encounters violent, truly demented criminals and drifters in a singular novel of hard-boiled noir and dark humor.	1984 Miami	Florida
Miami, It's Murder	Edna Buchanan	Cuban-American reporter Britt Montero investigates murder, voodoo and assaults in her city.	1994 Miami	Florida
Milk, Blood, Heat	Dantiel W. Moniz	Daughters and mothers, brothers and sisters, people of color living in the lush landscapes as witness to violence, love, darkest desires and faith in themselves in this intriguing debut.	2020 Jacksonville	Florida

Mostly Dead Things	Kristen Arnett	The Morton family is unforgettable, striving in their own ways to survive the suicide of their patriarch who began their taxidermy shop; Jessa-Lynn is in love with her brother Milo's wife, and their mother crafts sexy animal art in secret, until chaos brings them back.	2019 Orlando	Florida
River of Hidden Dreams	Connie May Fowler	A woman raised in the Everglades remembers the lives of her mother and grandmother amid mangroves and tides.	1994 St. Augustine	Florida
Rum Punch	Elmore Leonard	Jackie Burke, flight attendant, is recruited by FBI to bring down an arms dealer, and enlists Max Cherry, bail bondsman.	1992 Miami	Florida
St. Lucy's Home for Girls Raised by Wolves: Stories	Karen Russell	Fantastical stories of children, swamps, creatures and legend, water and myth.	2006 Everglades	Florida
Strip Tease	Carl Hiaasen	Erin Grant, former FBI clerk turned dancer, gets involved in a hilarious, terrifying series of crimes with hapless men.	1993 Fort Lauderdale	Florida
The Lonely Silver Rain	John D. MacDonald	The final novel of Travis McGee, detective, houseboat dweller, lover of the ocean, salvager of vessels and friends.	1985 Fort Lauderdale	Florida
The Old Man and the Sea	Ernest Hemingway	Fisherman Santiago fights epic battles with bad luck, a huge marlin, and countless sharks in a final novel.	1951 Gulf Coast	Florida
The Perez Family	Christine Bell	Two Cuban refugees arrive in Florida, pretend to be married in order to be resettled, but search for true family.	1989 Miami	Florida
The Secret Lives of Church Ladies	Deesha Philyaw	Nine evocative and deeply inquisitive stories of four generations of women considering love, sex, loss, family and joy in an award-winning debut collection.	2020 Sugar Hill, Jacksonville	Florida
The Talented Ribkins	Ladee Hubbard	An astonishing road trip is taken by Johnny Ribkins, 72, accompanied by Eloise, 13, his half-brother's daughter, to retrieve stolen money hidden in places all over southern Florida, by a secret posse of the Talented Tenth, tribute to DuBois and black heritage, in this hilarious and singular novel.	2017 Lehigh Acres	Florida
The Yearling	Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings	Classic novel set in the Florida woods, in the 1870s, where a young boy with a dreamer father and stern mother raises a fawn and faces tragedy.	1938 Volusia	Florida
Appalachee Red	Raymond Andrews	The first novel in a quartet about black characters in a small town from WWI to the 1960s.	1978 Muskhogean County	Georgia
Baby of the Family	Tina McElroy Ansa	In 1949, a girl is born with special abilities to see the past and observe life in Mulberry, a black community.	1989 Macon	Georgia
Bull Mountain	Brian Panowich	A family sells intoxicants from a mountain stronghold, as betrayals destroy their bonds in a vivid debut.	2015 Dahlonega	Georgia

Cane	Jean Toomer	A poetic, lyrical evocation of daily life and community in a classic novel set in rural fields and towns.	1923 Hancock County	Georgia
Crossing Ebenezer Creek	Tonya Bolden	A powerful young adult novel set during Emancipation, when two teens march with General Sherman toward true freedom, and seek their future and their chance at love.	2017	Georgia
Dear Martin	Nic Stone	Martin, whose mother sacrificed to enroll him in a wealthy school, thrives because of his best friend Manny, who's shot by a white police officer, exploding the world into sorrow in this bestselling YA novel.	2017 Atlanta	Georgia
Deliverance	James Dickey	Four men on a river trip encounter remote settlements, sadism and murder in the mountain woods.	1970 Chattooga River	Georgia
Everything That Rises Must Converge	Flannery O'Connor	Short stories of singular grace, melancholy, bitterness and redemption set in a changing South.	1965 Milledgeville	Georgia
Gold Diggers	Sanjena Sathian	An ingenious novel about Neil and Anita, teenagers searching for love in their Indian-American community, decoding model minority expectations, and a secret ancient potion connected to pure gold that tears the neighborhood apart.	2021 Atlanta	Georgia
Gone With the Wind	Margaret Mitchell	A novel of the Civil War and Reconstruction at Tara, owned by headstrong Scarlett O'Hara.	1936 Clayton County	Georgia
Jubilee	Margaret Walker	Classic novel of a mixed-race slave woman, Vyry, whose life encompasses bondage, Civil War, Reconstruction, and steadfast faith.	1966 Lee County	Georgia
Kira-Kira	Cynthia Kadohata	A Japanese-American family suffers hardships in the 1950s, and two young sisters hold close to kira-kira, the things that sparkle in their lives.	2004 Chesterfield	Georgia
Silver Sparrow	Tayari Jones	Richly-detailed heartbreaking novel of two girls who discover that they have the same father, a bigamist who loves them both.	2011 Atlanta	Georgia
Souder	William H. Armstrong	A sharecropper family hunts with a coon dog for sustenance, and when the father is arrested, his son and the dog journey to find him.	1969 Bartow County	Georgia
Strange Fruit	Lillian Smith	A secret affair between a white man and black woman causes heartache and murder in a small town in the 1920s.	1944 Clayton	Georgia
The Atlas of Reds and Blues	Devi S. Laskar	A heartbreaking novel, as the American-born daughter of Bengali immigrants re-dreams her entire life with her daughters, after she's shot by police in her own driveway.	2019 Marietta	Georgia
The Cherokee Rose	Tiya Miles	Three women discover the roots of Native American and African Americans at a former plantation.	2015 Diamond Hill	Georgia

The Darkest Child	Delores Phillips	In a small town in 1958, a dark-skinned daughter, one of ten, battles love for her mother with desire for education.	2005 Cassville	Georgia
The Love Songs of WEB Dubois	Honore Jeffers	Ailey Pearl spends summers in fictional Chicassetta, learning from generations of her female ancestors about the braided lives of African, indigenous, and white families, learning who she is and how she might change the world, in this prize-winning bestseller.	2021 Eatonton	Georgia
The Member of the Wedding	Carson McCullers	Frankie, lonely and seeking love, prepares for the loss of her brother in a comic, very dark novel of race and identity.	1946 Columbus	Georgia
The River of Kings	Taylor Brown	Known as “Little Amazon” river, the wild black water is the route for two brothers floating their father’s ashes to the sea, along with memories of centuries of history.	2018	Georgia
The Saints of Swallow Hill	Donna Everhart	During the Great Depression, a woman who survived an orphanage disguises herself as a man to work at a dangerous turpentine mill, where labor can mean death in the forest and she’s determined to live.	2022 Valdosta	Georgia
The Third Life of Grange Copeland	Alice Walker	First novel by acclaimed author, the story of a man’s life reclaimed through a granddaughter’s love.	1970 Eaton	Georgia
The Twelve-Mile Straight	Eleanor Henderson	In 1930, two babies and their mother are catalyst for a lynching, for family history and secrets revealed, for the terrible weight of racial violence measured.	2017	Georgia
The Wind Done Gone	Alice Randall	A novel with an alternative view of war and aftermath with Tara as Tata, owned by headstrong Cynara, a mixed-race woman.	2001 Clayton County	Georgia
The Wonder Book of the Air	Cynthia Shearer	Three generations revolve around a complicated man: veteran, terrible husband, and father.	1996 Alapaha	Georgia
Welcome to Braggsville	T. Geronimo Johnson	Four Berkeley students visit a tiny, segregated town which celebrates Civil War and re-enactments.	2015 Braggsville	Georgia
Behold the Many	Lois-Ann Yamanaka	Three young sisters with tuberculosis are sent to a valley orphanage in this haunting, lovely historical novel.	2006 Molokai	Hawaii
Comfort Woman	Nora Okja Keller	A Korean-American girl and her aunt try to help a mother tortured by her former life in “recreation camp” for Japanese soldiers in a powerful novel.	1997 Honolulu	Hawaii
Delicious	Mark Haskell Smith	A young chef fights for a film catering job, in a satirical, very dark comic novel filled with sex, food and locale.	2005 Honolulu	Hawaii

Molokai	Alan Brennert	A dazzling historical novel in which Rachel, a Hawaiian child, is taken to a settlement for those with leprosy, where their lives are meant to end, but where they instead form a rich resilient community.	2003 Kalaupapa	Hawaii
My Old Sweetheart	Susanna Moore	A daughter's life with an unstable mother in a lush novel set in a plantation house amid sugar cane and secrets.	1982 Big Island	Hawaii
Nuclear Family	Joseph Han	An entrancing novel of a Korean family's survival and enduring love from the DMZ to their Food Network-featured Cho's Delicatessen.	2022 Honolulu	Hawaii
Shadow Child	Rahna Reiko Rizzuto	Twin sisters Hana and Kei grow up in an isolated beach town, their mother trying for normal, their father gone, until a betrayal; years later, Hana is in New York when Kei arrives and a terrible crime splinters their lives.	2018 Hilo	Hawaii
Sharks in the Time of Saviors	Kawai Strong Washburn	In 1995, child Nainoa Flores is rescued from a shark's jaws, an omen to his struggling Hawaiian family; years later, tragedy hits the island clan, in this evocative debut novel.	2020 Honokaa	Hawaii
Song of the Exile	Kiana Davenport	Two families survive terrible losses during WWII, returning to an island changing with generations.	1999 Honolulu	Hawaii
All Over Creation	Ruth Ozeki	In a farming community, a young woman of mixed heritage considers the life of her parents, and genetically-engineered potatoes.	2002 Liberty Falls	Idaho
Faraway Places	Tom Spanbauer	A boy witnesses the murder of a woman, and in 1950s Idaho, prejudice leads another man to be blamed for the crime.	1988 Pocatello	Idaho
Finding Caruso	Kim Barnes	Orphan brothers arrive in 1957 to work in logging camps and find love in a romantic triangle.	2003 Snake Junction	Idaho
Five Skies	Ron Carlson	Three men must work together on a strange building project in the remote beauty of the Rocky Mountains.	2007 Rocky Mountains	Idaho
Four Treasures of the Sky	Jenny Tinghui Zhang	Intricate debut historical novel of Daiyu, kidnapped from her home in China, her harrowing life in America, where she must transform in threat of terrible violence.	2022 Pierce	Idaho
God's Dogs	Mitch Wieland	Liked stories of a man leaving his complicated life behind for a remote cabin, a new life in a new landscape.	2009 Owyhee Desert	Idaho
Idaho	Emily Ruskovich	A meditation and mystery about a family in remote woods and mountains, searching for the truth about a murder happened long ago that haunts their lives and the landscape.	2016	Idaho

Thousand Pieces of Gold	Ruthanne Lum McCunn	Historical novel based on Polly Bemis, a young Chinese woman sold by her father for family survival, and her life in 1800s America.	1981 Warren City	Idaho
Train Dreams	Denis Johnson	An orphan arrives by train to the wild woods of Idaho in 1893, and lives much of the history of the American West.	2011 Idaho Panhandle	Idaho
A Life Without Consequences	Stephen Elliott	A boy runs away, and then tries to survive institutional life and street life in 1980s Chicago.	2010 Chicago	Illinois
A Martyr for Suzy Kosasovich	Patrick Michael Finn	A girl's life where men work at the Washer and Wire Company, and grandmothers live for church in a singular debut.	2008 Joliet	Illinois
And Again	Jessica Chiarella	Four people with end-stage illnesses are given new bodies, experiencing betrayal and hard-fought wisdom in this speculative debut.	2016 Chicago	Illinois
Coffee Will Make You Black	April Sinclair	Stevie Stevenson grows up during the Civil Rights movement, finding who she is in the world.	1995 Southside Chicago	Illinois
Falling to Earth	Kate Southwood	The devastation of the great tornado of 1925 on the people of a small town, where one couple is spared.	2013 Murphysboro	Illinois
Grant Park	Leonard Pitts Jr.	On Election Day, 2008, while Barack Obama prepares his victory speech, a newspaper columnist is kidnapped by white supremacists.	2015 Chicago	Illinois
Hairstyles of the Damned	Joe Meno	Two punk kids reject segregation and Catholic high school idiocy, fighting in every way they can.	2004 Southside Chicago	Illinois
Hog Butcher	Ronald Fair	Two boys idolize their basketball hero, Cornbread, who prepares for college, when they witness him shot by police.	1966 Southside Chicago	Illinois
In Zanesville	JoAnn Beard	Two best friends observe damaged parents, dangerous neighbors and fight their chaotic childhoods with humor.	2011 Zanesville	Illinois
Look at Me	Jennifer Egan	Two Charlottes, one a beautiful model whose face is shattered in a crash, one a smart teenager playing with the idea of love, whose lives are linked in a novel satirical and yet luminous.	2001 Rockford	Illinois
Love and Shame and Love	Peter Orner	Generations of the Popper family move through the city in vivid kaleidoscopic stories, comic and tender.	2011 Chicago	Illinois
Memory Mambo	Achy Obejas	A Cuban-American woman deals with her family's Laundromat and their exile, while seeking love for herself.	1996 Chicago	Illinois
Neon Green	Margaret Wappler	In 1994, an extraterrestrial saucer lands in a family backyard, and the children watch their father descend into paranoia, in this comic and tender look at life before the internet.	2016 Prairie Park	Illinois

Ordinary People	Judith Guest	After one son is killed and the other attempts suicide, their parents try everything to save their marriage and family.	1976 Lake Forest	Illinois
Sister Carrie	Theodor Dreiser	A young woman leaves her rural home for the city, where her beauty attracts a manipulative man who precipitates her downfall.	1900 Chicago	Illinois
So Long, See You Tomorrow	William Maxwell	Fifty years after a murder in bleak 1920 winter on a farm, a man mourns the loss of his friendships.	1979 Lincoln	Illinois
Spoon River Anthology	Edgar Lee Masters	The poetic epitaphs of 212 people in a rural small town, a richly-detailed portrait of American life and humanity.	1915 Spoon River	Illinois
The Adventures of Augie March	Saul Bellow	Classic novel of the eventful and complicated life of a man born in "Chicago, that somber city."	1953 Chicago	Illinois
The Book of Ralph	John McNally	Hilarious depiction of 1970s life through the eyes of a singular narrator, a Styx fan whose family works at the Tootsie Roll factory.	2004 Southside Chicago	Illinois
The Coast of Chicago	Stuart Dybek	A classic story collection of deeply-observed and imagistic scenes of city life that could only be seen in this Chicago.	1990 Chicago	Illinois
The House on Mango Street	Sandra Cisneros	Esperanza grows up in a neighborhood of love and limitations and violence, in stories of poetic resonance.	1984 Chicago	Illinois
The Spook Who Sat by the Door	Sam Greenlee	Groundbreaking novel of the first black CIA agent who returns home to create Black Power resistance.	1969 Southside Chicago	Illinois
Water Marked	Helen Elaine Lee	Two sisters return to their community when their father dies, years after they thought he had killed himself.	2000 Salt County	Illinois
Where the Forest Meets the Stars	Glendy Vanderah	A graduate student who's suffered loss lives on sixty remote acres, studying nesting birds, when her life is transformed by a child, Ursa, who appears homeless but knows miracles.	2019 Vienna	Illinois
Wide Blue Yonder	Jean Thompson	A mother and daughter are wistful for love, care for an obsessive uncle, while tragedies approach like heavy weather.	2001 Springfield	Illinois
Double Wide: Collected Stories	Michael Martone	Life in the Hoosier State is rendered with hilarity and metaphor, in Peru, Elkhart, Indianapolis and elsewhere.	2007 Fort Wayne	Indiana
Going All the Way	Dan Wakefield	In 1954, Sonny Burns exits military service and relentlessly tries to have sex with women who are not his girlfriend.	1970 Indianapolis	Indiana
High Cotton	Darryl Pinckney	Eloquent observations on upper-class black life during the 1950s and 60s, by a unique and hilarious narrator.	1992 Indianapolis	Indiana

The Book of CarolSue	Lynne Hugo	CarolSue left her beloved sister Louisa on their family farm years ago, but when her husband dies, she returns; the two widows, amid the fields and family history, are asked to care for the baby of an undocumented woman, and life changes fast.	2020 Centerville	Indiana
The Bright Forever	Lee Martin	A girl is kidnapped on her way to the library, and the town searches for her while two local men are suspects.	2005 Tower Hill	Indiana
The Kindest Lie	Nancy Johnson	At 17, Ruth gave up a baby to her grandmother; years later, as a successful engineer, she must face her past when her husband wants a child in this compelling debut.	2021 Anderson	Indiana
The Massacre at Fall Creek	Jessamyn West	In 1924, four men are tried for the killing of nine Native American men, women and children in this historical novel about the violence of “settlement.”	1975 Fall Creek	Indiana
The Rabbit Hutch	Tess Gunty	Residents of an apartment complex called La Lapiniere amid cornfields and abandoned industry try to survive a week of colliding lives and violence in this debut novel.	2022 South Bend	Indiana
A Thousand Acres	Jane Smiley	A patriarch divides his three daughters with cruelty, as the eldest sister tells the story of their farm and family secrets.	1991 Zebulon County	Iowa
Heroes	David Shields	A sportswriter is obsessed with a new player on the college basketball team, a Chicagoan who energizes the town.	1984 River City	Iowa
Home	Marilynne Robinson	A shimmering novel of faith, family and love in a small town in 1956.	2008 Gilead	Iowa
Mystery Ride	Robert Boswell	The Springsteen song title, of the unknown in marriage, reflects a divorce and reverberations on a spectacularly difficult daughter.	1993 Iowa City	Iowa
Shoeless Joe	W.P. Kinsella	A farmer hears “If you build it, they will come,” turns his cornfield into a baseball diamond, and Shoeless Jo Jackson and other baseball spirits arrive.	1982 Iowa City	Iowa
The Bridges of Madison County	Robert James Waller	A lonely wife has an affair with a visiting photographer in the 1960s.	1992 Madison County	Iowa
The Fields	Erin Young	A thriller set amid massive cornfields and the small towns at their edges, a woman found amid the stalks, and the detectives and family who try to find out what happened to her and why.	2022 Cedar Falls	Iowa
The Quickening	Michelle Hoover	Atmospheric somber historical novel about two women on neighboring farms who need each other to survive their hard lives during the Depression.	2010 Ames	Iowa
The Stones of Summer	Dow Mossman	The eventful life of Dawes Oldham Williams, from greyhound ranch to Mexico, childhood to alienation.	1972 Cedar Rapids	Iowa

We Only Know So Much	Elizabeth Crane	The Copeland family, three generations in one rambling house, is falling apart in spectacular fashion in this hilarious novel about secret lovers, secret fear of dementia, secretive children, and growing older together.	2012 Mt. Pleasant	Iowa
All the Forgivenesses	Elizabeth Hardinger	Unforgettable heroine Alta Bea narrates her life from raising four siblings in 1906 Kentucky to marriage and family in the 1920s oil fields, resolute and brave.	2019 Paola	Kansas
Blind Voices	Tom Reamy	An astonishing, Ray Bradbury-like speculative novel set in the 1920s, as a traveling circus with amazing creatures casts different spells on three girls who cannot stay away, published posthumously, finalist for the Hugo Award.	1978 Hawley	Kansas
Desperadoes	Ron Hansen	Fictional account of the Dalton gang, with three brothers and endless capacity for robberies until they reach Kansas.	1979 Coffeyville	Kansas
Living to Tell	Antonya Nelson	Three generations live in one house, with constant turmoil but generous and astonishing scenes of humor.	2000 Wichita	Kansas
Not Without Laughter	Langston Hughes	His debut novel, somewhat autobiographical, about a black family in a small town in the early 1900s.	1930 Lawrence	Kansas
The Center of Everything	Laura Moriarty	A girl who loves science and geography copes with her single mother, whose life makes things hard in a small town.	2003 Kerrville	Kansas
The Learning Tree	Gordon Parks	Two boys coming of age in the 1920s, in a black community founded by freedmen, witnessing violence and tornados, but with powerful family ties.	1963 Fort Scott	Kansas
The Persian Pickle Club	Sandra Dallas	Queenie Bean tells the story of farm wives, a quilting club and camaraderie during the Depression.	1995 Harveyville	Kansas
The Virgin of Small Plains	Nancy Pickard	Tense lyrical mystery in which a teenager witnesses a terrible crime, with 17 years of repercussions in one town.	2006 Small Plains	Kansas
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz	Frank Baum	The farm, the tornado, Toto, Dorothy, and the hired men who become her dreamed-of companions in a fictional town, claimed by this place.	1900 Liberal	Kansas
Tie My Bones to Her Back	Robert F. Jones	In 1873, when Jenny's father kills himself over debt, she joins her brother Otto in the rough plains where he hunts buffalo; the first winter, a violent attack nearly kills her, and a Cheyenne tribe rescues them.	2014	Kansas
All the Living	CE Morgan	An ornate novel of a young woman's exhausting life on her lover's inherited tobacco farm, retaining her love for piano.	2009 Berea	Kentucky
Clay's Quilt	Silas House	A very young boy is raised by the residents of a small mining town in Appalachia after his mother is killed.	2001 Free Creek	Kentucky

Corregidora	Gayl Jones	A blues singer, Ursa Corregidora, bitterly hates the legacy of a slave-master who fathered her mother and grandmother.	1975 Lexington	Kentucky
Every Bone a Prayer	Ashley Blooms	In an isolated hollow of the Appalachian Mountains, Misty and Penny are growing up in a trailer home, haunted by people and objects determined to terrify them, Misty's tenacious courage will not be broken, in a strong debut novel.	2020 Cutshin	Kentucky
Groundskeeping	Lee Cole	Two writers – Owen, working as a landscaper at a local college, and Alma, a writer-in-residence with some success – form a bond over language, story, and the investigation of their own family histories.	2022 Louisville	Kentucky
Icy Sparks	Gwyn Hyman Rubio	An orphan girl of immense intellect struggles with Tourette's syndrome during the 1950s.	1998 Appalachian Mountains	Kentucky
Kentucky Straight	Chris Offutt	Short stories, told with fierce imagery and tenderness, of children and men, coal miners and hunters, in Appalachia.	1992 Rowan County	Kentucky
River of Earth	James Still	Beautifully detailed novel of three years of a young boy's life between family farm and mining camp in Appalachia.	1940 Knott County	Kentucky
Shiloh and Other Stories	Bobbie Ann Mason	Farm communities and rural suburbs are home to men and women considering who they are in the New South, and what has been left behind.	1982 Kentucky Lake	Kentucky
Stranger Here Below	Joyce Hinnefeld	Two girls, one black and one white, meet at Berea College during the tumultuous 1960s and form a bond.	2010 Pleasant Hill	Kentucky
The Birds of Opulence	Crystal Wilkinson	Four generations of Black women in a rural town survive tragedy and a hard land, with their family-inherited magic, spells, and trust, in a lush tender debut novel.	2016 Stanford	Kentucky
The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek	Kim Michele Richardson	An astonishing novel based on the true story of blue-skinned people in isolated Kentucky mountains in the 1930s, and the brave traveling librarians who ride pack horses – featuring a young “book woman” named Cussy Mary.	2019 Troublesome Creek	Kentucky
The Dollmaker	Harriette Arnow	A classic novel in which a woman leaves Appalachia for Detroit with her husband and family, but city life is crushing and soulless.	1954 Pulaski County	Kentucky
The Memory Keeper's Daughter	Kim Edwards	When twins are born in 1964, their physician father gives away the girl, who has Down's syndrome, to a nurse.	2005 Lexington	Kentucky

Trampoline	Robert Gipe	Dawn Jewell, whose father died in the mines, wears black nail polish and listens to Black Flag, and joins her grandmother to fight strip mining in their mountain community in an illustrated novel.	2015 Cumberland Mountains	Kentucky
Weeds	Edith Summers Kelley	A young woman resists the constrictions of her life as a rural tenant farmer in this pioneer feminist novel.	1923 Scott County	Kentucky
A Density of Souls	Christopher Rice	Four childhood friends become enemies who torment and betray each other with horrific results.	2000 New Orleans	Louisiana
A Free Man of Color	Barbara Hambly	Unique historical novel featuring surgeon and musician Ben January, investigating murders in 1833.	1997 New Orleans	Louisiana
A Good Scent From a Strange Mountain	Robert Olen Butler	Vietnamese characters haunted by the war make new homes in the bayou and cities, with lamentation and daily life.	1992 Lake Charles	Louisiana
A Hall of Mirrors	Robert Stone	His first novel, a kaleidoscopic tale of a clarinet player meeting other lost souls during Mardi Gras, delineating the soul of an alcoholic.	1967 New Orleans	Louisiana
Band of Angels	Robert Penn Warren	A young woman living on a Kentucky plantation discovers she is descended from a slave, taken to New Orleans and sold to a man with terrible secrets.	1955 New Orleans	Louisiana
Cane River	Lalita Tademy	Four generations of Creole women, from slavery to 2000, fight injustice and raise strong families in rural Louisiana.	2001 Cane River	Louisiana
City of Refuge	Tom Piazza	Two families – one black, one white – endure the power of Hurricane Katrina, and try to rebuild their lives.	2008 New Orleans	Louisiana
Delicious Foods	James Hannaham	Crack is an actual character named Scotty in this fierce novel, wherein Eddie and his mother are kept prisoner on a farm where addicts are indentured servants.	2015 Ovis	Louisiana
Glass House	Christine Wiltz	A woman returns to the Garden District, where family tensions, racial violence, and her past all collide.	1994 New Orleans	Louisiana
Last One Out Shut Off the Lights	Stephanie Soileau	An evocative debut story collection with Cajun mothers and grandmothers, fathers whispering ruin from chemical plants, and teenagers trying to escape home and yet hold on to love.	2020 Sulphur	Louisiana
Little Altars Everywhere	Rebecca Wells	The early adventures of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood, and their daughters, the Petites Ya-Yas, in their summer camping grounds.	2009 Thornton	Louisiana
Louisiana Lucky	Julie Pennell	Three small-town sisters play the lottery for years – dreaming of the perfect wedding, a better house, and private school; winning two million dollars, they find life not what they expected in this charming tender novel.	2020 New Iberia	Louisiana

Louisiana Power & Light	John Dufresne	Members of the Fontana family live chaotic lives in which nothing ever goes as planned.	1994 Monroe	Louisiana
Meely LaBauve	Ken Wells	A young boy grows up in Cajun culture, with gators, frogs, men, and revelation.	2000 Catahoula Bayou	Louisiana
Orleans	Sherri L. Smith	An astonishing, prescient YA novel about Delta Fever, a virus that kills so many Americans, tribes are formed based on blood type and survival.	2013 New Orleans	Louisiana
Purple Cane Road	James Lee Burke	Detective Dave Robicheaux finally discovers the truth about his mother's murder, and confronts his past.	2000 New Iberia Parish	Louisiana
Queen Sugar	Natalie Baszile	A woman and her daughter leave LA for the rural sugarcane acreage they inherit, and discover farming, family troubles and new love.	2014 St. James Parish	Louisiana
Set in Motion	Valerie Martin	A social worker in the city endures her days but at night, the wrong men pursue her for sex, patience and stories.	1978 New Orleans	Louisiana
Ten Seconds	Louis Edwards	Intensely imagined, deeply affecting novel of one young man's fall from grace, told as the moments of a sprint, but tracing an entire life.	1991 Lake Charles	Louisiana
The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman	Ernest J. Gaines	Epic novel narrated by a 110-year-old woman, freed from slavery at nine, who travels from place to place, forming family everywhere with her resolute brave kindness.	1971 Pointe Coupee Parish	Louisiana
The Awakening	Kate Chopin	A young wife and mother refuses to accept the strict limitations of her life, and takes a lover.	1899 Grand Isle	Louisiana
The Feast of All Saints	Anne Rice	Historical novel of free people of color in the city battling laws and violence of defiant white society.	1979 New Orleans	Louisiana
The Grandissimes: A Story of Creole Life	George Washington Cable	Creole families romanticize their own lives, and their treatment of slaves, at the turn of the century.	1880 New Orleans	Louisiana
The Hard Blue Sky	Shirley Ann Grau	On a tiny island off the coast, a community of French-Spanish fishermen and their families brave a hurricane.	1958 Isle aux Chiens	Louisiana
The Long-Legged Fly	James Sallis	Lew Griffin, a black investigator, searches for missing people in this poetic and philosophical thriller.	1992 New Orleans	Louisiana
The Moviegoer	Walker Percy	Binx Bolling can't escape Korean War trauma, and takes several journeys to try and find himself whole again.	1961 New Orleans	Louisiana
The Next Step in the Dance	Tim Gautreaux	Paul and Colette try to stay in love through constant disaster in this compelling novel of fishing, machinery, dancing, and bayous.	1998 Morgan City	Louisiana
Things We Lost to the Water	Eric Nguyen	A devastating novel about Huong, who leaves her husband behind in Vietnam, sons Tuan and Binh, who never see their father again, and the constant struggle to become what seems American, to find the truth about who you are when you leave home.	2021 New Orleans	Louisiana

Visiting Hours	Jennifer Moses	A compelling and sometimes comic novel of AIDS patients, their desires, their caretakers and visitors.	2012 Baton Rouge	Louisiana
Yellow Jack	Josh Russell	Haunting, evocative novel set in the 1840s, during the invention of daguerreotype photography and the horror of yellow fever.	1999 New Orleans	Louisiana
A Piece of the World	Christina Baker Kline	A lovely historical novel based on the life of Christina Olson, whose family lived for generations on a remote coast, whose body betrayed her with illness, whose image was made immortal in Andrew Wyeth's paintings.	2016 Cushing	Maine
Boar Island	Nevada Barr	An Anna Pigeon mystery, wherein the park ranger tries to protect a young girl being stalked by a cyber-killer, on a remote coastal island in Maine, full of danger and beauty.	2016 Acadia National Park	Maine
Carrie	Stephen King	The iconic novel of a girl with telekinetic powers, a fanatical mother, and jeering classmates, a fierce portrait of small town repression and desire.	1974 Lisbon Falls	Maine
Chenoo	Joseph Bruchac	Impossible to classify novel – mystery, thriller, comedy and folklore – where Jacob Neptune, Penacook PI, must help friends on ancestral lands deal with casinos, developers, and murder.	2016 Abenaki Island	Maine
Cost	Roxana Robinson	An elderly couple with memory loss, their daughter rescuing her addicted son, and their beloved neglected summer home.	2008 Blue Hill	Maine
Edinburgh	Alexander Chee	A Korean-American boy sings soprano in a boys' choir with a pedophile director, and through fable and strength, recovers from the trauma.	2001 Waterville	Maine
Empire Falls	Richard Russo	Miles Roby won't give up on his native mill town, not on the feckless men, not on the sharp-tongued women he loves.	2001 Empire Falls	Maine
Evening	Susan Minot	A dying older woman remembers her first love, overshadowing her own family in this elegant depiction of 1950s lush life.	1998 Newport	Maine
Hitty	Rachel Field	Winner of the Newbery Medal, Hitty tells the story of a wooden doll carved in the 1820s by a peddler, for a little girl whose father is at sea. But Hitty eventually travels the world.	1929 Great Cranberry Island	Maine
Lungfish	Meghan Gilliss	On her family's desolate island, a young mother uses the land and sea to feed her desperate family in this fascinating novel of addiction, memory and layers of the past.	2022 Damariscove Island	Maine

Night of the Living Rez	Morgan Talty	A stunning debut of young people and their families on Penobscot land, the landscape as its own character of winter and retribution, and ancestral tethers strong enough to help save those in dire need.	2022 Penobscot	Maine
Olive Kitteridge	Elizabeth Strout	In a coastal town, thirteen stories of Olive, a retired teacher whose voice is honest, melancholy and observant about the people around her.	2008 Crosby	Maine
Oslo, Maine	Marcia Butler	A mother moose, a damaged boy, and three families come together to find philosophy, salvation, and memories of hope in a rural town.	2021 Denmark	Maine
Red Hook Road	Ayelet Waldman	Two families in coastal Maine are entangled following a car accident after a wedding, and must overcome issues of class and anger.	2010 Red Hook	Maine
Shine on, Bright & Dangerous Object	Laurie Colwin	Olly and Sam fall in love young, but by 27, she is a widow after he sails into a storm, and she must somehow find a different love in a tenderly comic novel.	1975 Kennebunk	Maine
Stern Men	Elizabeth Gilbert	Two families of lobstermen have long and bitterly feuded over their territories at sea, as observed by a young woman who returns home to the island.	2000 Fort Niles	Maine
The Beans of Egypt, Maine	Carolyn Chute	Eleven stories in which Earlene Pomerleau observes the large family of Beans, in sometimes poetic, sometimes startling narratives.	1985 Egypt	Maine
The Country of Pointed Firs	Sarah Orne Jewett	A beautiful classic novel of a tiny fishing village observed by a woman writer, who sees the fierce independence, magical connections, and deep reverence for woods and sea in the early times of America.	1896 South Berwick	Maine
The Lowering Days	Gregory Brown	Three brothers growing up free and wild in the 1980s find life changed as the toxic paper mill is burned as sacred retribution by an indigenous teen.	2021	Maine
The Northern Reach	WS Winslow	Four families find their lives entwined through generations of hard work, fishing, and the sea; longtime secrets, passions, and always the water rules.	2021 Waldoboro	Maine
The Poacher's Son	Paul Doiron	Mike Bowditch was raised by his father, a violent poacher; now a game warden, he risks everything to find out whether his father truly murdered a local cop, deep in the wilderness, in the perceptive, compulsive readable debut.	2017 Spencer Lake	Maine

The Prayer of the Bone	Paul Bryers	An enthralling mystery about an isolated seaside community under attack from a mystical bear who's killing a team of anthropologists, maybe a spiritual emissary of the Abenaki peoples whose land is being disturbed.	2000 Machiasport	Maine
Tinkers	Paul Harding	An elderly clock repairman recalls his father, who travelled by wagon as a tinker, and his mother's threat to send her husband to an asylum.	2009 West Cove	Maine
We Took to the Woods	Louise Dickinson Rich	An adventurous woman and her husband raise their family in backcountry woods, with indomitable spirit, and a beautifully-detailed love of the land in this classic.	1942 Lake Umbagog	Maine
Bright River Trilogy	Annie Greene	One charming man and three women in a rural community: his mother, his farm employer who falls in love, and a young woman who keeps a list of sexual conquests.	1984 Hooke's Crossing	Maryland
Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant	Anne Tyler	Pearl Tull's family is full of charming, funny, sarcastic children, and her youngest son runs a café of magical quirkiness.	1982 Baltimore	Maryland
Jacob Have I Loved	Katherine Paterson	Louise, growing up in a tiny fishing village in 1941, hates her selfish sister, Caroline, until she learns the ways of her father and the watermen	1980 Chesapeake Bay	Maryland
Mary Jane	Jessica Anya Blau	A hilarious, prescient novel about a teenager living a quiet 1970s life until she gets a job as a nanny taking care of a rock star, trying to dry out from excess, and his family, altering everything about her worldview.	2021 Baltimore	Maryland
Mason's Retreat	Christopher Tilghman	A thousand acres on the Chesapeake Bay, with ruined mansion, is the center of an epic family story.	1995 Chesapeake	Maryland
Mother of Sorrows	Richard McCann	An elegant, lovely novel-in-stories, set in 1950s America, when a young boy, after the loss of brother and father, finds solace in the complicated faith of his mother, while realizing his own gay identity.	2005 Silver Spring	Maryland
Sugar House	Laura Lippman	Tess Monaghan, private investigator, searches for reasons in the murder of a teenage runaway.	2000 Baltimore	Maryland
The Furrows	Namwali Serpell	A piercing beautiful evocation of grief, of a sister who loses a brother, of how past and present tangle and braid into deepest ripples of sorrow.	2022 Bethany Beach	Maryland
The Language of Light	Meg Waite Clayton	A young widow moves with her two children back to the wealthy horse country outside Baltimore where she was raised.	2003 Worthington Valley	Maryland
The World Doesn't Require You	Rion Amilcar Scott	An eclectic, wholly original set of stories set in a fictional town founded after a successful slave revolt, tales of belonging and identity and humanhood.	2019 Silver Spring	Maryland

Your Face in Mine	Jess Row	Sharp satire, as a man has “racial reassignment surgery” transforming white Jewish to African-American identity.	2014 Baltimore	Maryland
An Arsonist’s Guide to Writers’ Homes in New England	Brock Clarke	Sam burns down Emily Dickinson’s house, killing two locals by accident, but then requests arrive to burn other houses.	2007 Amherst	Massachusetts
April Morning	Howard Fast	During battle in 1775, young Adam questions belief and his ability to kill, in the fight which fells his father.	1961 Lexington	Massachusetts
Beyond That, the Sea	Laura Spence-Ash	A evocative historical novel of a girl sent from wartime London in 1940 to live with an American family in New England, eight points of view of the lingering affection and melancholy of separation and survival.	2023 Chelsea	Massachusetts
Born Slippy	Tom Lutz	A carpenter/philosopher, Frank Baltimore, works in his hometown until building a mansion in Hartford, where his charismatic criminal young worker’s life invades his own with danger and a bigger world.	2019 Leyden	Massachusetts
Caucasia	Danzy Senna	Birdie and Cole have a white mother and black father who each take one sister to raise during 1970s racial turmoil, a devastating separation.	1998 Boston	Massachusetts
Don’t Ask Me Where I’m From	Jennifer De Leon	Liliana, whose Salvadoran-born mother loves Vietnamese food, who has close friends in her Boston neighborhood, enrolls in an honors program in an all-white suburb in this debut YA novel.	2020 Weston	Massachusetts
Faith	Jennifer Haigh	A sister, her brother, and her half-brother deal with intense fallout from Catholic sex abuse scandals, and with their own family’s dark history.	2011 Boston	Massachusetts
Father of the Rain	Lily King	In the wealthy suburbs, a girl and mother flee a terrible father who immediately replaces them, and those echoes color the daughter’s adult life.	2010 Boston	Massachusetts
Illumination Night	Alice Hoffman	Island people decide to die, decide to love, decide to venture outside, all told in magical prose.	1987 Martha's Vineyard	Massachusetts
Leaving Pico	Frank X. Gaspar	In a Portuguese fishing community, families are divided, and faith returns with magical storytelling.	1999 Provincetown	Massachusetts
Little Women	Louisa May Alcott	The iconic novel of four sisters and their mother, growing up in genteel poverty, with resilience and social activism.	1868 Concord	Massachusetts
Meeting Rozzy Halfway	Caroline Leavitt	Two sisters grow up, one quiet and observant, one brilliant and very troubled, in novel lush with detail.	1980 Boston	Massachusetts
Mermaid in Chelsea Creek	Michelle Tea	In dirty slow rivers, one girl plays a dangerous game and sees a swearing mermaid who she believes can save the town from ordinary evil.	2013 Chelsea	Massachusetts

Moby Dick	Herman Melville	Ishmael, sailor on the Pequod, narrates the tale of a whaling captain and his quarry, the great white whale.	1851 Nantucket	Massachusetts
Mystic River	Dennis Lehane	In a stunning portrait of one neighborhood, three men - damaged survivor of kidnapping, homicide detective, and former thief – self-destruct after a daughter is murdered.	2001 East Buckingham, Boston	Massachusetts
Promised Land	Robert B. Parker	The fourth Spenser mystery, first with the iconic Hawk, as the men protect a runaway wife and two militant feminists.	1976 Cape Cod	Massachusetts
The Giant's House	Elizabeth McCracken	In 1950, a young lonely librarian develops a singular relationship with a boy who grows into a giant.	1996 Brewster	Massachusetts
The Good Mother	Sue Miller	A divorced woman with a young daughter has an intense relationship with a new lover, and her former husband accuses her of ignoring dangerous behavior.	1986 Cambridge	Massachusetts
The Good Thief	Hannah Tinti	Umbrage, orphan Ren is rescued by con man Benjamin, who claims to be his brother, leading him on thieving journeys in 1900s New England.	2008 Salem	Massachusetts
The Handmaid's Tale	Margaret Atwood	Unforgettable, riveting voice in Offred, whose life was erased when a religious coup turns women into Wives and Handmaids, and men into Commanders, while violence is inescapable, and yearning for freedom never fades.	1997 Cambridge	Massachusetts
The Last Confessions of Sylvia P	Lee Kravetz	A beautiful, terrifying evocation of the poet Sylvia Plath, her life in McLean Hospital, her intellect and passion, and the way other humans decided who she was, and what her story would be.	2023 Belmont	Massachusetts
The Parking Lot Attendant	Nafkote Tamirat	A father and daughter leave Ethiopia for America, falling under the spell of a charismatic believer who begins a remote utopian community, in this wonder-voiced narrative full of introspection.	2018 Boston	Massachusetts
The Scarlet Letter	Nathaniel Hawthorne	Hester Prynne has a daughter out of wedlock in 1642, and pays the price in the classic of religious hypocrisy in Puritan times.	1850 Boston	Massachusetts
The Thing About Jellyfish	Ali Benjamin	After her friend dies, Suzy, 12, searches for understanding in her comic system of intelligence in this award-winning YA novel.	2015 Stoughton	Massachusetts
The Wedding	Dorothy West	An exclusive black enclave hosts the wedding of a favorite daughter, but a tragic accident occurs.	1995 Oak Bluffs	Massachusetts
The Wishing Hill	Holly Robinson	A young woman leaves Mexico to care for her demanding mother in New England, where she learns the truth about her family.	2013 Newbury	Massachusetts

The Woman Upstairs	Claire Messud	A teacher becomes entangled in furious deception with an artist and her young son; though the plot ranges wide, the heart is her childhood and mother in a seaside town, in this perceptive novel about despair and anger of one woman.	2013 Manchester-by-the-Sea	Massachusetts
Union Dues	John Sayles	The tumultuous 1969 autumn sees revolution, resistance, runaway teens, and rowdy conversations everywhere.	1977 Boston	Massachusetts
Unravelling	Elizabeth Graver	A headstrong young woman leaves her mother and family farm for a mill town in this evocative historical novel.	1997 Lowell	Massachusetts
Vida	Marge Piercy	A fascinating portrait of Vida Asch, gone underground after militancy in the 1960s, in a safe house with a young man.	1979 Cape Cod	Massachusetts
We Love You, Charlie Freeman	Kaitlyn Greenidge	An African-American family, expert at sign language, moves in 1990 to an all-white town to work at an institute with a dark past, teaching communication to a chimpanzee.	2016 Wellesley	Massachusetts
White Ivy	Susie Yang	A young girl grows up poor with her Chinese-born grandmother, taught to constantly strive for better, and later becomes obsessed with a wealthy classmate in this dark and always surprising debut novel.	2020 Cambridge	Massachusetts
American Salvage	Bonnie Jo Campbell	Fierce stories peopled with unforgettable men and women who hunt for dinner, repair everything, and try to love each other.	2008 Kalamazoo	Michigan
Difficult Women	Roxane Gay	In many landscapes, but notably forests and lakes and small towns of the Upper Michigan Peninsula, women tell singular stories of damage, trauma, resilient love, and survival.	2016 Houghton	Michigan
Eight Mile High	Jim Ray Daniels	Fourteen stories in which Eight Mile Road is main character, asphalt that embodies racial and class divisions.	2015 Detroit	Michigan
Last Year's Jesus	Ellen Slezak	Linked stories of comic precision and detail, of Polish-American families whose landscapes alter in surprising ways.	2002 Detroit	Michigan
Mama	Terry McMillan	A singular voice in fiction, Mildred Peacock, single mother of five who navigates survival in a tough small town.	1987 Point Haven	Michigan
Marlena	Julie Buntin	A thriller of lyrical language and the real lives of two girls whose obsessive friendship leads to danger, and the kind of deep intimacy necessary to survive a harsh landscape.	2017 Petoskey	Michigan

Pears on a Willow Tree	Leslie Pietrzyk	Four generations of Polish-American women, some who leave and some who stay, all searching for self.	1998 Detroit	Michigan
Short Girls	Bich Minh Nguyen	Sisters Van and Linny, petite daughters of parents who immigrated from Vietnam, escape their suburban life for success and then, estrangement, until life crises bring them back together in their father's realm of invention.	2009 Grand Rapids	Michigan
Snakes	Al Young	A beautifully complicated jazz song, MC travels through life with his grandmother, the Mississippi past and Detroit present, and the girl he wants to kiss.	1970 Detroit	Michigan
Station Eleven	Emily St. John Mandel	An extraordinarily compelling novel set in near future after a pandemic, when a group of survivors travel around the Great Lakes region through extreme danger, living through narrative and chosen family.	2014 Traverse City	Michigan
The Feast of Love	Charles Baxter	Tales of every kind of love told by residents of this city, young and old, melancholy and fortunate.	2000 Ann Arbor	Michigan
The Marsh King's Daughter	Karen Dionne	Absolutely thrilling novel of a woman whose father kidnapped her mother, held her captive in a marsh, and the daughter who sent him to prison, who hears he's escaped.	2017 Germfask	Michigan
The Turner House	Angela Flournoy	The 13 children of Viola Turner negotiate family secrets deciding the fate of the iconic home their mother values for its history.	2015 Detroit	Michigan
The Virgin Suicides	Jeffrey Eugenides	The five Lisbon sisters, beautiful, mysterious, dying, as observed by the teenage boys who love them.	1993 Grosse Pointe	Michigan
What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day	Pearl Cleage	When Ava learns she has HIV, she moves back to her hometown in a comic novel.	1997 Idlewild	Michigan
When Old Midnight Comes Along	Loren D. Estleman	Classic private investigator novel journeying through Michigan cities and suburbs, as Amos Walker searches for the truth about a series of brutal murders.	2019 Detroit	Michigan
Abundance	Jakob Guanzon	A devastating, daring novel of father and son, eking out survival with a small amount of cash in the landscape of McDonalds and WalMart, in the truck they call home, an indictment of desperation so many know.	2021 Inner Grove, Minneapolis	Minnesota
Backbone: Short Stories	Carol Bly	Women in small towns fortify each other with food, story and compassionate strength in sharp lyrical stories.	1984 Madison	Minnesota
Finding My Voice	Marie G. Lee	Ellen Sung, the only Korean-American girl in her all-white high school, finds her strength to fight racism and find love in the first YA novel to explore Asian-American identity, reissued in 2020.	1993 Hibbing	Minnesota
Good Night, Mr. Wodehouse	Faith Sullivan	Nell Stillman, brave, resilient lover of books, survives family grief with humor, compassion and friends.	2015 Harvester	Minnesota

Heaven to Betsy	Maud Hart Lovelace	Beloved characters from a series, Betsy and Tacy, head to high school, where they make new friends.	1945 Mankato	Minnesota
In the Lake of the Woods	Tim O'Brien	A wife disappears from a remote cabin, and her husband, politician and Vietnam vet, may have a part.	1995 Lake of the Woods	Minnesota
Kitchens of the Great Midwest	J. Ryan Stradal	The epic life of Eva Thorvald, unsparing genius of taste, a panoramic portrait of food, culture and devotion in a region.	2015 Hastings	Minnesota
Little	David Treuer	On an Ojibwe reservation, a close-knit family uses worlds of memory and kinship to survive a place named "Poverty."	1995 Leech Lake	Minnesota
Main Street	Sinclair Lewis	A young woman marries and moves to a small town, petty and stultifying, inciting her rebellion.	1920 Sauk Centre	Minnesota
Murder on the Red River	Marcie Rendon	Cash Blackbear, at 19, an unforgettable character who's survived the accident that killed her mother, teams with the sheriff who rescued her to find the truth behind the murder of a man in the first of a series.	2017	Minnesota
Ordinary Grace	William Kent Krueger	Summer of 1961 means mysterious deaths, mourning and the tender observing of his small town for teenage Frank, who discovers terrifying secrets in this gripping award-winning novel.	2013 New Ulm	Minnesota
Peace Like a River	Leif Enger	A father raises three children, one of whom kills two intruders, escapes jail and is sought by his family in a revelatory novel.	2001 Roofing	Minnesota
Shrouds of White Earth	Gerald Vizenor	Native American painter Dogroy Beaulieu creates obsessive fans and enemies with his visionary shrouds.	2010 White Earth Reservation	Minnesota
The Chuckling Fingers	Mabel Seeley	A chilling classic mystery by a reknowned crime writer, set on a remote estate, with a thrilling plot and intrepid female lead.	1941 Lake Superior	Minnesota
The Life We Bury	Allen Eskens	A thriller about a young man and woman trying to solve a murder for which the wrong man was convicted.	2014 Austin	Minnesota
The Living End	Stanley Elkin	Views of a crowded, joke-filled hell as told by a liquor-store owner, mordant and comic, killed in a robbery.	1979 Minneapolis	Minnesota
The Quarry Girls	Jess Lourey	In 1977, a small town seems idyllic with county fairs and swimming, but when girls disappear, two friends know their secret puts them in danger, based on a true crime.	2022 St. Cloud	Minnesota
The Road Back to Sweetgrass	Linda LeGarde Grover	Three young indigenous women leave home, for work and love, but find themselves drawn back to the original sweetgrass land of their ancestors, in this moving and lyrical novel.	2016 Nett Lake	Minnesota

The Seed Keeper	Diane Wilson	Many generations of Dakota women – Marie Blackbird, Darlene Kills Deer, Rosalie Iron Wing, Gabby Makespeace – are bound together by history from 1862 to 2002, preserving seeds of food that represents heritage and family love, in this urgent and vivid novel.	2021 Mankato	Minnesota
Where No Gods Came	Sheila O'Connor	A young girl must take care of her alcoholic mother in a dangerous environment, at risk herself.	2003 Minneapolis	Minnesota
A Time to Kill	John Grisham	After a young girl is raped by two remorseless men, a lawyer takes on the entire town seeking justice for her family.	1989 Clanton	Mississippi
Billy	Albert French	A terrifying historical novel in which a ten-year-old African-American boy is convicted of murdering a white girl in 1937.	1993 Banes	Mississippi
Biloxi	Mary Miller	Louis McDonald is 63, so alone he's joined a cheese-of-the-month club, but adopting a dog named Layla might transform his life in this wonderfully-quirky novel of companionship.	2019 Biloxi	Mississippi
Can't Quit You, Baby	Ellen Douglas	The complicated relationship of a wealthy white woman and her strong-willed black maid, who refuses to succumb to violence.	1988 Jackson	Mississippi
Joe	Larry Brown	A derelict family survives due to their son Gary, who meets a savior, Joe, a compassionate but tough lumber foreman in this searing novel.	1991 Oxford	Mississippi
Light in August	William Faulkner	The lives of Lena Grove and Joe Christmas collide in a place haunted by secrecy and racial hatred.	1932 Yoknapatawpha County	Mississippi
Mudbound	Hillary Jordan	In 1946, two families, one white and one black, struggle to survive on a desolate farm, amid racism and hard weather.	2008 Mississippi Delta	Mississippi
Pariah and Other Stories	Joan Williams	Quiet, revelatory stories of the history of a small place, the tangled relationships between white and Black families, of mental illness and care for others.	1983 Arkabutla	Mississippi
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry	Mildred D. Taylor	During the Depression, a black family fights to keep their land despite night riders and violence.	1976 Jackson	Mississippi
The Collected Stories	Eudora Welty	Forty-one stories set in rural Mississippi, wide-ranging characters and voices that cannot be classified, with singular prose and imagery.	1980 Jackson	Mississippi
The Gone Dead	Chanelle Benz	Billie James returns to the house she inherited when her poet father died, trying to find herself in his poetry, his memory, and searching for what really happened thirty years ago in a place full of tragic history and secrets.	2019 Greenwood	Mississippi

The Hate U Give	Angie Thomas	A riveting novel, as Starr Carter, who must navigate two worlds – private prep school and her often-dangerous home – witnesses the police killing of her best friend.	2017 Jackson	Mississippi
The Heaven of Mercury	Brad Watson	Since 1917, Finus Bates has pursued unrequited love for Birdie Wells, though they married other people.	2002 Mercury	Mississippi
The Oxygen Man	Steve Yarbrough	Ned Rose spends nights checking the oxygen levels in catfish ponds, observing inequity for black workers.	1999 Indianola	Mississippi
The Past is Never	Tiffany Quay Tyson	When a child disappears while swimming in an abandoned quarry, her father abandons the family; her brother and sister set off on a quest to find the truth, in this atmospheric debut novel full of secrets and dreams.	2018 Forest	Mississippi
The Prophets	Robert Jones Jr.	This lyrical debut novel tells the love story between two young men, whose survival on a brutal plantation along the Yazoo River depends on the deeply-felt community enslaved people have forged.	2021 Vicksburg	Mississippi
Waveland	Frederick Barthelme	After Hurricane Katrina, an architect in a Gulf Coast town tries not to fail at life and succeed at regret.	2009 Waveland	Mississippi
Where the Line Bleeds	Jesmyn Ward	Twin brothers in a tight-knit rural black community navigate life in vivid imagery and unique narrative.	2008 DeLisle	Mississippi
Wolf Whistle	Lewis Nordan	An imaginative alternate view of the murder of a young man like Emmett Till, who whistled at a white woman.	1993 Arrow Catcher	Mississippi
Yonder Stands Your Orphan	Barry Hannah	“You need to see a bit of hell now and then,” unforgettable characters prove in the backwoods.	2001 Clinton	Mississippi
Breaking Out of Bedlam	Leslie Larson	Cora Sledge resides in an assisted living home, but her memories of younger life and marriage are strong.	2010 Joplin	Missouri
Finn	Jon Clinch	Huckleberry Finn’s father has his own riveting, terrifying story; a brutal father, a sickly brother, and a life forever altered by Huck, history and the river.	2007 Hannibal	Missouri
Mrs. Bridge	Evan S. Connell	Iconic novel of India Bridge, mother of three, wife of one, who yearns for emotion, meaning and love in her life.	1959 Kansas City	Missouri
Only the Strong	Jabari Asim	Lorenzo “Guts” Tolliver tries to keep Gateway City from erupting into riots after the 1968 death of Martin Luther King, in a love letter to the past.	2015 St. Louis	Missouri
Sharp Objects	Gillian Flynn	A troubled reporter is sent home to cover murders of two girls, and the small town reveals dangerous secrets.	2006 Wind Gap	Missouri
Somebody Else’s Mama	David Haynes	A father runs for mayor, his wife takes in an elderly mother not her own, and history is remembered in this affectionate portrait of a small black town.	1995 River Ridge	Missouri

Stoner	John Williams	Stoner leaves backbreaking farm life for college, literature, and the life of the mind, his sole retreat from loveless marriage and what the world would consider failure.	1965 St. Louis	Missouri
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn	Mark Twain	The legendary tale of Huck's journey from actual home to remote cabin to island, raft and river, with Jim.	1884 Hannibal	Missouri
The King of King's County	Whitney Terrell	Over five decades, a powerful man divides the city with real estate and racism, while his son is both admiring and resentful.	2005 Kansas City	Missouri
The Twenty-Seventh City	Jonathan Franzen	In St. Louis, three women of Indian descent conspire to manipulate politics, real estate, and police in a satirical first novel.	1988 St. Louis	Missouri
The Weight of Blood	Laura McHugh	In an Ozarks town, a girl faces murderous revelations about her father, his brother, and her missing mother in an atmospheric debut.	2014 Henbane	Missouri
Winter's Bone	Daniel Woodrell	Ree Dolly's epic quest to find her meth-cooking father, dead or alive, in an astonishingly beautiful and brutal novel.	2006 Ozark Hills	Missouri
A Yellow Raft in Blue Water	Michael Dorris	Three generations of women, Ida, Christine and Rayona, love each other despite hardships and betrayals by men throughout the West.	1987 Flathead Reservation	Montana
August	Callan Wink	A mother and son flee a decaying farmhouse in Michigan to arrive in rural Montana, where he strives to be a man in a beautiful but dangerous land filled with tough men, and tough decisions.	2020 Livingston	Montana
Blind Your Ponies	Stanley Gordon West	Sam finds home in a tiny town on the range, coaching basketball, losing every game, marveling at the brave resilience of friends and neighbors in this often-hard place.	2011 Willow Creek	Montana
Book of the Little Axe	Lauren Francis-Sharma	In 1796, Rosa, a young free black woman, leaves Trinidad for America; marrying a Crow warrior, she has a son, but when he comes of age in 1830, she must travel back home so he understands his roots.	2020 Bighorn	Montana
Broken Field	Jeff Hull	A portrait of scattered small towns on the high plains, with a teen girl dreaming of better love, a high school coach trying to help his football team, and a violent act that changes everything.	2018 Big Sandy	Montana
Creek Mary's Blood	Dee Brown	Dane, an old warrior in 1905, narrates much of American history through his grandmother, a Creek woman born in pre-Civil War Georgia, enduring the Trail of Tears, and settled near Wounded Knee.	1980 Dundee	Montana

Far Enough: A Western in Fragments	Joe Wilkins	Stories of a young cowboy, his rancher boss, and the rancher's daughter, amid family strife and beautiful landscape.	2015 Ryegate	Montana
Fools Crow	James Welch	When this was Blackfeet land in 1870, with no borders, a young man becomes warrior, husband and seeker in an iconic novel of legend and necessary history.	1986 Browning	Montana
For a Little While	Rick Bass	Stories of a remote valley in northwestern Montana, whose residents are ranchers, scientists, owls, deer and observers.	2016 Yaak Valley	Montana
Fourth of July Creek	Smith Henderson	A thrilling novel about a social worker, the endangered young boy he tries to help, and the survivalist father whose actions set off a cascade of trouble in remote Montana.	2015	Montana
Hattie Big Sky	Kirby Lawson	A wrenching, honest and beautiful YA novel about Hattie, orphaned, searching for freedom and left by her uncle a homestead with one cow and one horse, in an unforgiving land.	2006 Vida	Montana
Jackalope Dreams	Mary Clearman Blew	Corey Henry, fierce in her 50s, deals with her mean cowboy father and newcomers to her one-room schoolhouse.	2008 Fort Maginnis	Montana
Montana, 1948	Larry Watson	A boy relates the unraveling of three people not what they seemed: his sheriff father, their Sioux housekeeper, his physician uncle.	1993 Bentrock	Montana
Nothing But Blue Skies	Thomas McGuane	Former hippie, then speculator, a man considers his life in the big western landscape with comic observance and language.	1992 White Sulphur Springs	Montana
Ridgeline	Michael Punke	In 1866, Chief Red Cloud and Crazy Horse, Lakota warriors, fight the US Army for control of their homelands, leading to a fateful battle on their historic hunting grounds, in this compelling historical novel.	2021	Montana
The Only Good Indians	Stephen Graham Jones	A novel impossible to put down, wherein four young Blackfeet men who desecrated an elk hunt are themselves hunted down by a ghost Elk Woman, ten years later, an astonishing psychological thriller.	2020	Montana
The Powwow Highway	David Seals	Classic novel of two Cheyenne men on a warrior journey, in a LeSabre, to rescue a sister.	1979 Lame Deer Reservation	Montana
The Shining Mountains	Alix Christie	This rousing historical novel braids narrative of war, survival, and resilience of indigenous peoples and the immigrants whose stories became entwined with theirs, especially women fighting for their families.	2023 Fort Connah	Montana

The Surrounded	D'Arcy McNickle	After isolation at a federal boarding school, Archilde Leon, with a Spanish father and Native American mother, resists the destruction of his culture.	1936 Flathead Reservation	Montana
The Whistling Season	Ivan Doig	Evocative recollections of drylands life, one-room schoolhouses, families re-forming for survival and for love.	2006 Marias Coulee	Montana
The Widow Nash	Jamie Harrison	A fascinating historical novel wherein Dulcy leaves the train carrying the body of her formerly-wealthy father, and herself presumed dead, reinvents her life as a rich young widow in the 1904 West.	2015 Livingston	Montana
Winter Range	Claire Davis	Ranchers and families struggle to survive bleak winters and each other in an isolated small town in eastern Montana.	2000 Libby	Montana
Dalva	Jim Harrison	Dalva, part Sioux and part rancher, has an unforgettable voice in her remembrances of the unforgiving history of her homeland, her ancestors, and her many loves.	1988 Pine Ridge Mountains	Nebraska
Goodnight, Nebraska	Tom McNeal	After a crime in Utah, a 17-year-old boy is sent to a small town, where football, a cheerleader and farmwork cannot truly save him, or anyone else, in this moving novel.	1999 Hay Springs	Nebraska
My Antonia	Willa Cather	Classic novel of immigrants working on the tallgrass frontier, where prairie landscape enters their bones and souls.	1918 Webster County	Nebraska
Pickard County Atlas	Chris Harding Thornton	On the windswept plains of Nebraska's sand hills, abandoned farmhouses simmer in 1978, when Deputy Harley Jenson searches for the truth of a murdered son in this rural noir novel full of grace.	2020 Oakdale	Nebraska
Plains Song	Wright Morris	Haunting, melancholic and poetry-infused book, a melody of three women's voices on the plains.	1980 Grand Island	Nebraska
Tell Me a Riddle	Tillie Olsen	Reissue of four classic stories of women striving for physical and intellectual survival, including "I Stand Here Ironing."	1995 Omaha	Nebraska
The Bones of Paradise	Jonis Agee	Ten years after the massacre of Lakota people, a white rancher and young Lakota woman are murdered on his land, and a history of vengeance is uncovered.	2016 Wounded Knee	Nebraska
The Children's Blizzard	Melanie Benjamin	In 1888, a devastating snowstorm descends onto the Great Plains with no warning, kills hundreds of children walking home from rural schools; two sisters, both teachers, make choices with lifelong consequences in this compelling novel.	2021 Mira Valley	Nebraska
The Echo-Maker	Richard Powers	After a man's brain is injured in a car accident, he becomes convinced his sister is not his sister.	2006 Kearney	Nebraska

The Rim of the Prairie	Bess Streeter Aldrich	In a small town, pioneers and families form bonds in an unsentimental classic novel.	1925 Elmwood	Nebraska
World, Chase Me Down	Andrew Hilleman	In 1900, a former butcher kidnaps the son of a meatpacking tycoon, crossing state lines but always wanting to return to his beloved wife, in the first successful ransom demand in American history.	2017 Omaha	Nebraska
You Remind Me of Me	Dan Chaon	One brother spends his life waiting to find the other, after their mother makes a fateful decision, in a beautifully spare novel.	2004 St. Bonaventure	Nebraska
A Desert of Pure Feeling	Judith Freeman	At a motel, novelist Lucy recalls a life of epic loves and losses, and then befriends Joycelle, a young stripper.	1996 Las Vegas	Nevada
Battleborn	Claire Vaye Watkins	Stories of fierce excavation and lyric description about the myths and legends of this west, from hermits to Manson followers.	2012 Reno	Nevada
Bombshell	Liza Wieland	An exotic dancer is told by her stepbrother that her father is the Unabomber, who killed the brother's wife.	2001 Las Vegas	Nevada
Dragonfish: A Novel	Vu Tran	A crime novel that truly a meditation on haunted memory, a former refugee's reinvention and search for a lost daughter.	2015 Las Vegas	Nevada
Gangsterland	Tod Goldberg	A hit man is surgically remade as a rabbi, and uses a suburban cemetery for purposes not death, in this laser-sharp comic thriller.	2014 Summerlin	Nevada
Girlchild	Tupelo Hassman	In a life so abusive some parts are actually redacted, a young girl delineates her bravery in the trailer park where she lived.	2012 Reno	Nevada
Leaving Las Vegas	John O'Brien	An alcoholic plans to drink himself to actual death, despite a woman who tries to save him.	1990 Las Vegas	Nevada
Rabbit Boss	Thomas Sanchez	Four generations of a Washo family moves back and forth across the Sierra Nevadas, protecting their beliefs and land.	1973 Lake Tahoe	Nevada
The Gin Closet	Leslie Jamison	A woman spends thirty years in a desert trailer, drinking, until the arrival of her niece from New York City.	2010 Reno	Nevada
The Secret History of Las Vegas	Chris Abani	Poetic, lyrical, yet terrifying novel, as Detective Salazar searches for a killer of homeless men in the blinding city.	2014 Las Vegas	Nevada
A Prayer for Owen Meany	John Irving	Two men, one from a prosperous old family, one the son of a quarryman, sustain conflict and friendship through chaotic lives.	1989 Gravesend	New Hampshire
A Separate Peace	John Knowles	A man returns to the prep school where he was part of kinship and betrayal during World War II, remembering his best friend.	1959 Andover	New Hampshire

Affliction	Russell Banks	During winter, one man – beaten child, former athlete, estranged father, alcoholic dreamer – disappears from a trailer park in this powerful novel.	1989 Lawford	New Hampshire
Baby Love	Joyce Maynard	Four young women obsessed with babies and being “perfect” in their small town are menaced in unexpected ways.	1981 Hillsboro	New Hampshire
Before and After	Rosellen Brown	The before is a family’s good life with two children; the after is when the son is accused of murdering his girlfriend and he flees.	1992 Hyland	New Hampshire
Fortune’s Rocks	Anita Shreve	A former convent on the coast, now a retreat, is the setting for a love story among residents in 1899.	1999 North Hampton	New Hampshire
Lake People	Abi Maxwell	Alice, as a baby, is abandoned by a lake, taken in by a family, knows nothing of her ancestors in this beautiful remote place, and must find her own way to love.	2013 Lake Winnepesaukee	New Hampshire
Leah, New Hampshire	Thomas Williams	Fifteen stories of humanity, sorrow, and lyricism set in lyrically-evoked forest and town by a classic author.	1992 Lebanon	New Hampshire
Live Free or Die	Ernest Hebert	A town of the kind people leave wrestles with rural nature and development, through the eyes of two young lovers.	1990 Keene	New Hampshire
Peyton Place	Grace Metalious	In a novel shocking for its time, the desires, ambitions and vices of a small town divided by class are revealed.	1956 Gilmanton	New Hampshire
Salem Falls	Jodi Picoult	A former teacher works as a dishwasher in a new town, trying to escape rumors of the past.	2001 Salem Falls	New Hampshire
The Dearly Departed	Elinor Lipman	An older couple, secretly engaged, die suddenly and their children negotiate their own relationship.	2001 King George	New Hampshire
Unlikely Animals	Annie Hartnett	An absorbing quirky perceptive portrait of the animals and humans avoiding each other, sharing and hiding secrets, and excavating layers of a small town.	2022 Newport	New Hampshire
After Moondog	Jane Shapiro	A 25-year marriage ends, but after caring for children and parents, a couple cannot leave each other behind.	1995 South Orange	New Jersey
American Pastoral	Philip Roth	Impossible to categorize, a novel that examines ordinary and deeply-observed life in a nation of strivers.	1997 Newark	New Jersey
Clockers	Richard Price	A low-level young drug dealer is stalked by a veteran detective, in a vivid, precise tour through a decaying city.	1992 Jersey City	New Jersey

Dear Edward	Ann Napolitano	After his parents and his older brother are killed in a plane crash, along with all the other passengers except one boy, he must learn how to live his whole life with “part of himself left in the sky,” with relatives.	2020 West Milford	New Jersey
Eddie and The Cruisers	P.F. Kluge	Iconic novel of 1950s rock-and-roll with The Parkway Cruisers, and what happens 20 years after Eddie’s death.	1980 Berkeley Heights	New Jersey
Election	Tom Perrotta	During a high-school contest, an ambitious girl squares off against her classmates and a teacher in a very dark comedy.	1998 Winwood	New Jersey
House of Wonder	Sarah Healy	Jenna pulls away from her twin brother for an ordinary life, but as a mother, returns to her childhood home to test her loyalty and save her family.	2014 Harwick	New Jersey
Jernigan	David Gates	A rueful widower drinks and tries to make sense of his son and his chances for contentment and love in a suburb he hates.	1991 Hoboken	New Jersey
One for the Money	Janet Evanovich	The debut of bounty hunter Stephanie Plum, and her singular family, friends and adventures with criminals.	1994 Trenton	New Jersey
The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao	Junot Diaz	An astonishing novel of a mother’s life in the Dominican Republic, her son’s life in America, and his immense search for love.	2007 Paterson	New Jersey
The Final Club	Geoffrey Wolff	Class divisions and strife in college are recalled by a not-favorite son who observes how privilege can destroy.	1990 Princeton	New Jersey
The Last Open Road	B.S. Levy	A young mechanic is a street racer during the 1950s in this historic look at the nation’s love of cars and speed.	1994 Passaic	New Jersey
The Sportswriter	Richard Ford	A dreamy alienated father belongs to the Divorced Men’s Club in a suburb, considering love, athletics and refuge.	1986 Haddam	New Jersey
Bless Me, Ultima	Rudolfo Anaya	The mythical, lyrical classic of a boy learning about centuries of love, hardship, belief and loyalty in the small community where his ancestors settled long ago and created their own history.	1972 Santa Rosa	New Mexico
Ceremony	Leslie Marmon Silko	An intricate novel of storytelling, traditional life and the evil brought by World War II to a remote, beautiful landscape.	1977 Laguna Pueblo	New Mexico

Daughter of a Daughter of a Queen	Sarah Bird	A riveting historical novel based on the life of Cathay Williams, formerly enslaved in Missouri, fought disguised in the Buffalo Soldiers, loved by one man, always fierce in her knowledge of her African-descended royalty.	2018 Fort Union	New Mexico
House Made of Dawn	N. Scott Momaday	A pioneering and poetic novel of a young man traumatized by war, saved by his traditional elders.	1969 Jemez Pueblo	New Mexico
Hyssop	Kevin McIlvoy	An elderly thief tells stories of the two women he loved, the Catholic priest he considers a saint, and unlikely salvation.	1998 Las Almas	New Mexico
Red Sky at Morning	Richard Bradford	A boy's family leaves Alabama for a New Mexico mountain town, where he has to learn about tradition, love, sex and death in 1944.	1968 Corazon Sagrado	New Mexico
River Woman, River Demon	Jennifer Givhan	A Chicana woman cannot escape her past memories of a lost loved one in the border desert of California, and when her magical husband is accused of murder, everything changes.	2022 Los Lunas	New Mexico
So Far From God	Ana Castillo	Sofia and her four daughters – Fe, Esperanza, Caridad, and La Loca – negotiate faith, death, family and magic.	1993 Tome	New Mexico
The Atomic Weight of Love	Elizabeth J. Church	Meridian, an ornithologist, falls in love with a physicist in 1941 and follows him to Los Alamos, where the science of killing terrifies her; much later, she meets a free-spirited young Vietnam war veteran, and finds solace in crows, in a striking novel.	2016 Grants	New Mexico
The Block Captain's Daughter	Demetria Martinez	Six unforgettable characters weave stories of border crossings, rescue and close community, hard labor and dreams anchored by Lupe Anaya's letters to the baby girl she carries.	2012 Albuquerque	New Mexico
The Crossroads	Alexandra Diaz	Jaime and his cousin Angela flee a violent gang in Guatemala to live with his brother Tomas, who works on a mountain ranch; Jaime must navigate school, English, and worries about his abuela back home, in this affecting YA novel.	2018 Santa Fe	New Mexico
The Five Wounds	Kristin Valdez Quade	The Padilla family, five generations strong in an ancient Rio Grande town, come together around a Passion Play, a pregnant teenager, her abuela, and her father, who's been searching for years as to who he wants to be.	2021 Pena Blanca	New Mexico
The Goddesses of Kitchen Avenue	Barbara Samuel	A community of artists and friends helps a woman reconcile with a wrecked marriage and a new life.	2004 Pueblo	New Mexico
The Last of the Menu Girls	Denise Chavez	Seven linked stories of magical landscapes and survival by imagination in the life of Rocio.	1986 Las Cruces	New Mexico
The Milagro Beanfield War	John Nichols	Family farmers follow one man's fight for irrigation water and traditional life in a comic, iconic novel.	1974 Milagro	New Mexico

The Plumed Serpent	D.H. Lawrence	A dark, intense examination of ancient belief and Aztec culture, the author called this his “real novel of America.”	1926 Taos	New Mexico
Trinity Fields	Bradford Morrow	Two boys are born on the same day in 1944, their lives entwined with war and the Manhattan Project.	1995 Los Alamos	New Mexico
Truth is a Bright Star	Joan Price	Classic middle-grade reader about Loma, a Hopi boy kidnapped by Spanish soldiers in 1832, sold to a fur trapper, trying to get back home.	1982 Third Mesa,	New Mexico
A Hero Ain't Nothin but a Sandwich	Alice Childress	A chorus of singular voices tell the story of Benjie, 13, who falls into heroin as his neighborhood fights that plague with community ties.	1973 Harlem	New York
A Home at the End of the World	Michael Cunningham	Three friends try to make sense of their complicated love for each other over the course of years.	1990 Woodstock	New York
A Northern Light	Jennifer Donnelly	In 1906, teen Mattie works at the famous Glenmore Hotel, where a guest drowns in the lake, a murder that inspired Dreiser’s “An American Tragedy,” in this atmospheric novel.	2003 Big Moose Lake	New York
A Place in the Wind	Suzanne Chazin	An insightful mystery series featuring Jimmy Vega, a detective from the Bronx, investigating a missing high school girl who tutored recent immigrants upstate.	2017 Lake Holly	New York
A Stone of the Heart	Tom Grimes	An Irish Catholic family tries to survive 1961 and change, as narrated by the baseball-obsessed oldest son.	1990 Queens	New York
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn	Betty Smith	Iconic, beloved novel of a girl born in poverty who survives with books, imagination and bravery.	1943 Williamsburg, Brooklyn	New York
Against Gravity	Lucy Ferriss	A rail-thin girl wants to escape her small town, and heads to Manhattan, but responsibility calls her back.	1996 Hudson River Valley	New York
All-Bright Court	Connie Porter	Two blocks of dilapidated housing cannot ruin the resilience, imagination and camaraderie of working-class black families arrived from the south to work in the steel industries.	1987 Buffalo	New York
America’s Dream	Esmerelda Santiago	America Gonzales vividly narrates her life, from abusive marriage in Puerto Rico to family in the Bronx to working in a wealthy town.	1975 Westchester	New York
And Give You Peace	Jessica Treadway	A father kills himself and his youngest daughter, leaving two sisters and their mother to attempt forgiveness.	2001 Ashmont	New York
And Now You Can Go	Vendela Vida	An armed man accosts a young college student, attempting suicide, and her survival is a measure of her humor and intelligence.	2003 Riverside Park, Manhattan	New York

Behold the Dreamers	Imbolo Mbue	Jende and Neni left Cameroon for Harlem, where they struggle to survive, but when he lands a chauffeur job for an investment banker, everything changes, until the financial world collapses, in this perceptive debut traveling all of New York.	2016 Manhattan	New York
Big Girl	Mecca Jamilah Sullivan	A teenager dreams constantly of her own identity in her own body, of how her father loves food and her mother sees it as enemy for her, as she moves through life at school and in her neighborhood in this evocative yet fierce novel.	2022 Harlem	New York
Big Man	Jay Neugeboren	Mack Davis, working in a car wash, recalls his supreme talent on the college basketball court, and how the “fixes” of 1951-52 brought him down.	1966 Brooklyn	New York
Blackboard Jungle	Evan Hunter	A Navy Veteran gets a job teaching at a tough manual-trade high school which tests him with violence and cynicism.	1954 East Bronx	New York
Bodega Dreams	Ernesto Quinonez	The story of Willie Bodega, 60s activist, 90s drug lord, complicated Robin Hood, told by Chino, a student.	2000 Spanish Harlem	New York
Bread Givers	Anzia Yezierska	A young girl in a tumultuous impoverished Orthodox Jewish family, with three older sisters and an inventive mother.	1925 Lower East Side, New York City	New York
Breakfast at Tiffany's	Truman Capote	Holly Golightly became an American icon of style, verve, and dreams in this novella of life as it once was the city.	1958 Upper East Side	New York
Breath, Eyes, Memory	Edwidge Danticat	A Haitian-born girl moves to live with her mother, whose traumatic past is visited upon her daughter, in arresting prose.	1994 Brooklyn	New York
Bright Lights, Big City	Jay McInerney	In the 1980s, the city is insular and tribal in ways, shimmering and out-of-reach in others, with drugs, sex, and bread.	1984 Manhattan	New York
Brown Girl, Brownstones	Paule Marshall	A pioneering coming-of-age story of Selina, daughter of Bajan immigrant parents, learning the culture and traditions she will keep in this world.	1959 Brooklyn	New York
Call It Sleep	Henry Roth	In the Jewish immigrant neighborhood, a young boy observes complicated marriages, families, compromises and crowded streets in an unsentimental classic.	1934 Lower East Side	New York
Charming Billy	Alice McDermott	A resonant elegy for Billy Lynch, Irish-American dreamer, who never recovered from the death of his one love.	1998 The Bronx	New York
Daddy Was a Number Runner	Louise Meriwether	Classic compelling novel of Francie, a girl trying to survive poverty and predators, with a humorous precision view of the world.	1970 Harlem	New York

Daughter	Asha Bandele	Heartbreak and loss during a mother's vigil by the hospital bed of her daughter, a college student shot mistakenly by a white policeman.	2003 Brooklyn	New York
Desperate Characters	Paula Fox	In stunning, brilliant prose, a couple's insulated life is laid bare and begins to crumble in the late 1960s.	1970 Brooklyn	New York
Dominicana	Angie Cruz	Teenage Ana leaves the Dominican Republic for America by marrying Juan, an older man she doesn't love, but when life changes, his brother Cesar offers a new freedom in this tender novel of resilience.	2019 New York	New York
Don't Erase Me	Carolyn Ferrell	The title story in this collection is a pure gem, working backward as one woman's life led her to an HIV diagnosis, and other stories are lyrical as well.	1997 South Bronx	New York
Fin & Lady	Cathleen Schine	A young boy becomes the ward of his older half-sister, and chaotic, comic life and adventures ensue.	2013 Greenwich Village	New York
Final Payments	Mary Gordon	After eleven claustrophobic years caring for her martyr-like Catholic father, Isabel seeks intellectual and physical freedom.	1978 Queens	New York
Floyd Harbor	Joel Mowdy	The beach is not a wealthy playground for the characters in this town filled with contractors, rough men, and young people trying to survive and find their passions.	2019 Mastic Beach	New York
Girls	Frederick Busch	A campus police chief whose infant daughter died sees the darkness and evil surrounding girls, who are menaced, killed, and leave others bereft.	1997 Hamilton	New York
Golden Country	Jennifer Gilmore	Three immigrant families are aspirational, their lives connected through historic change in America.	2006 Brooklyn	New York
Gorilla, My Love	Toni Cade Bambara	Fifteen classic stories with inimitable voices, many of young girls who look at the world with brave fierce vision and singular phrasing.	1972 Bedford-Stuyvesant	New York
Half-Resurrection Blues	Daniel Jose Older	A vivid urban fantasy of "inbetweeners" who bring bodegas and streets to life with new energies and crackling action.	2015 Brooklyn	New York
Halsey Street	Naima Coster	A Dominican-born mother and her Brooklyn-born daughter struggle for reconciliation as their neighborhood is gentrified, familiar faces and friends disappeared, and their loyalty tested.	2018 Brooklyn	New York
Heartburn	Nora Ephron	Classic hilarious novel of a cookbook writer, her husband's betrayal while she's pregnant, and her journey (with food!) to reclaim happiness; based on the author's life with journalist Bob Woodward.	1983 Manhattan	New York
Home to Harlem	Claude McKay	Two men, one who fled WWI military service, one a Haitian-American intellectual, connect amid a wide range of Harlem residents and culture during the Renaissance.	1928 Harlem	New York

Hoops	Walter Dean Myers	The playgrounds and star-level basketball of Harlem are vivid as Lonnie Jackson meets a heroic ex-pro baller.	1981 Harlem	New York
How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents	Julia Alvarez	Four sisters who left the Dominican Republic examine their dual identities, loyalties and resilience in this classic novel.	1991 The Bronx	New York
If Beale Street Could Talk	James Baldwin	Tish and Fonny, a young couple, have only intense love and family as fortification against police racism, jail, and sorrow in a tender luminous novel.	1974 Harlem	New York
Invisible Man	Ralph Ellison	Iconic hallucinatory novel of a black man who left 1920s South for 1930s Harlem, misused and unrecognized everywhere.	1952 Harlem	New York
Ironweed	William Kennedy	The third in the Albany Cycle, set in 1938, wherein Francis Phelan, former pro baseball player, alcoholic murderer, drifts through memories of the dead and alive in his beloved city.	1983 Albany	New York
Leaving Brooklyn	Lynne Sharon Schwartz	In the 1950s, a daring girl with an injured “wandering eye” leaves the staid borough for the new freedom of Manhattan.	1989 Brooklyn	New York
Lily’s Crossing	Patricia Reilly Giff	A Newbery Medal winner, this novel for young readers is set during 1944, with Lily’s father gone to war, and Albert, a refugee from Hungary whose arrival changes her life.	1997 Rockaway Beach	New York
Lipstick Jungle	Candace Bushnell	Three wealthy women steer their ways through fashion trends, social circles, and power in the city.	2005 Manhattan	New York
Living on the Borderlines	Melissa Michal	Generations of indigenous women move between reservation communities and urban life, weaving memory, hope, art and history into their lives.	2019 Nedrow	New York
Lost Lake	Mark Slouka	Twelve shimmering linked stories of fishing, Czech immigrant histories, and rich landscapes of water and woods.	1998 Lost Lake	New York
Maggie: A Girl of the Streets	Stephen Crane	A poet’s precise language applied to the terrible and realistic destruction of a pretty young girl.	1893 The Bowery	New York
Marya: A Life	Joyce Carol Oates	The epic life of an abandoned girl whose fine brain assists in her survival of tragedy and betrayal with intelligence and clear eyes.	1986 Innisfail	New York
Mona in the Promised Land	Gish Jen	Mona’s Chinese-born parents consider themselves “the new Jews” in a wealthy suburb in 1968, but her hilarious take on the world is much different.	1996 Scarsdale	New York
Motherless Brooklyn	Jonathan Lethem	A gleeful virtuoso paean to noir featuring a detective who adopts four orphans, including Lionel, who has Tourette’s syndrome and unique vision.	1999 Brooklyn	New York

Ms. Hempel Chronicles	Sarah Shun-lien Bynum	A young teacher delves deeply into the lives of her middle-school students, and with equal depth considers her own family and losses.	2008 Manhattan	New York
Native Speaker	Chang-Rae Lee	A Korean-American spy hears secrets and dreams in Korean-owned bars and stores and on the streets, his identity caught between languages and worlds.	1995 Manhattan	New York
Netherland	Joseph O'Neill	After 9/11, a Netherlander and a Trinidadian become obsessed with cricket, in a paean to the entire city.	2008 Staten Island	New York
New York, My Village	Uwem Akpan	An often hilarious, always perceptive novel of Nigerian editor Ekong, working on a book about his tribe's suffering during the Biafran War, his journey through layers of racism, bedbugs, and unexpected redemption.	2022 Hell's Kitchen	New York
Night Song	John A. Williams	A black musician clings to life and memories of the vibrant world of jazz, clubs and saxophones.	1961 Greenwich Village	New York
Object Lessons	Anna Quindlen	During the 1960s, a young girl observes the power and dissolution of her family traditions, both Irish and Italian Catholic.	1991 The Bronx	New York
Open City	Teju Cole	A moody young Nigerian medical student voyages the city streets, observing faces, dreams, entrepreneurial spirit and melancholy.	2011 Manhattan	New York
Passing	Nella Larsen	Classic novel of identity: two light-skinned African-American women – one passing for white, one living in a black community – whose friendship is tested by revelation and tragedy.	1929 Harlem	New York
Preparation for the Next Life	Atticus Lish	A damaged US soldier and a Uighur woman travel through New York.	2014 Queens	New York
Primitive People	Francine Prose	A young Haitian woman works as an au pair for a wealthy family, observing appalling rites in a comic, lacerating voice.	1992 Hudson's Landing	New York
Ragtime	E.L. Doctorow	Set in the early 1900s, a novel of two families – one white, one black – and racism, radicalism, pride and vengeance.	1975 New Rochelle	New York
Rainey Royal	Dylan Landis	A unique heroine, Rainey is 14, growing up hard with an ego-driven musician father, navigating ferocity and survival in the 1970s.	2014 Greenwich Village	New York
Re Jane	Patricia Park	Jane is an orphan, raised by her Korean uncle's family, her intellectual observations hilarious and sly in the best Eyre fashion, her life altered when she becomes au pair for an adopted Chinese girl.	2015 Flushing	New York
Ruby	Rosa Guy	A groundbreaking YA novel about a West Indian girl moved to Harlem whose mother is dead, father is absent, who falls in love with an assured beautiful female classmate.	1976 New York	New York

Sag Harbor	Colson Whitehead	Benji, a nerdy sarcastic hilarious teen spends summer where black people own beach houses and 1980s culture is a character.	2009 Sag Harbor, Long island	New York
Sophie's Choice	William Styron	In a 1947 boardinghouse, a writer hears the epic, shocking stories of two lovers, the woman a survivor of Auschwitz.	1979 Brooklyn	New York
Sparrow	Sarah Moon	An amazing YA debut novel, in which Sparrow, a wonderful teenage character who reads all the books read by her favorite characters, a mixed-race intellectual trying to find her place in the world, finds it on the roof with the birds, alarming those around her.	2017 Brooklyn	New York
Spidertown	Abraham Rodriguez, Jr.	Electric prose in a novel about a young drug runner, his arsonist friend, and the girl he loves.	1993 South Bronx	New York
Starting Out in the Evening	Brian Morton	Unexpected, tender love from a young graduate student revives an elderly isolated writer.	1997 Upper West Side, Manhattan	New York
Stories from the Tenants Downstairs	Sidik Fofana	A chorus of voices narrates this collection set in an apartment building sold to a gentrifying corporation; these tenants are vivid and unforgettable.	2022 Harlem	New York
Sunset Park	Paul Auster	The love story of a young man waiting for a too-young woman, living in a dilapidated house full of characters.	2010 Sunset Park, Brooklyn	New York
Tell the Wolves I'm Home	Carol Rifka Brunt	Devastating and tender novel of June, 14, whose Uncle Finn, a genius painter, has AIDS in 1987, and her journey to understand his life.	2018 Westchester	New York
The Air We Breathe	Andrea Barrett	Historical novel of tuberculosis patients at a sanitarium in a chorus of science, radicalism, and love.	2007 Saranac Lake	New York
The Bait	Dorothy Uhnak	The debut of Christie Opara, a pioneering female detective, who becomes the target of a serial rapist-murderer.	1968 The Bronx	New York
The Ballad of Black Tom	Victor LaValle	Throughout the boroughs, a young musician in the Jazz Age takes care of his father, uses his magic, and envisions powerful forces at work.	2016 Harlem	New York
The Catcher in the Rye	JD Salinger	Holden Caulfield versus Pennsylvania prep school and bullies, and his journey through the post-war city, with incarnations of lust and night, love and fear.	1951 Manhattan	New York
The Catfish Man: A Conjured Life	Jerome Charyn	Magic characters, surreal humor, and real streets of the neighborhood by a master of place.	1980 The Bronx	New York
The Church of Dead Girls	Stephen Dobyns	Three young girls disappear in what seems a perfect rural small town in upstate beauty.	1997 Aurelius	New York
The Coldest Winter Ever	Sister Souljah	Named for the time of her birth, Winter Santiago, daughter of a drug lord, discovers her own hard strengths after her family falls apart.	2005 Brooklyn	New York

The Collected Stories	Grace Paley	From three collections, of stoops and sidewalks, Jewish émigré families, divorced women and observant children, a panorama of city snapshots with voices like no other.	1994 Lower East Side	New York
The Cool World	Warren Miller	The elliptical, inimitable voice of Duke, 14-year-old warlord of the Crocadiles gang, trying to keep friendship and possible dreams intact.	1959 Harlem	New York
The Dakota Winters	Tom Barbash	A beautifully encapsulated moment in American history, the venerable building home to a young man whose famous father needs help – from people like John Lennon and Johnny Carson.	2018 Manhattan	New York
The Final Revival of Opal & Nev	Dawnie Walton	A mesmerizing debut novel about Opal, a Black singer whose life spans Detroit, Birmingham, Paris, Australia, but whose fiery sense of humor, justice and selfhood changes lives in a fateful show with brutal consequences.	2021	New York
The Fortunate Pilgrim	Mario Puzo	Lucia Santa raises her family with the fierce strength and traditions of Sicily, in this rich affecting novel based on the author's mother.	1965 Hell's Kitchen	New York
The Great Gatsby	F. Scott Fitzgerald	The vibrant, lush obsessive story told by Nick Carraway, of Gatsby and Daisy, lost love, excess and tragic consequences.	1925 West Egg, Long Island	New York
The House of Mirth	Edith Wharton	Two tumultuous and devastating years in the life of Lily Bart, beautiful, poor, and inventively destroyed by class-obsessed society.	1905 New York City	New York
The Last of Her Kind	Sigrid Nunez	Two young women meet at Barnard in 1968 in a portrait of the whole city and a timeless social era.	2005 Manhattan	New York
The Last of the Mohicans	James Fenimore Cooper	The classic novel of wild frontier struggle for indigenous Lenape peoples, including Chingachgook and his son Uncas, aided by woodsman Hawkeye, in the Leatherstocking tales.	1826 Glen Falls	New York
The Law of Enclosures	Dale Peck	A complex, fiercely lyrical account of marriage, terrible childhood and lost mother, and rewriting memory.	1996 Long Island	New York
The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love	Oscar Hijuelos	Two brothers, Cesar and Nestor, leave Cuba, composing new music, creating an orchestra, reflecting many Cuban-American dreams and melancholy losses.	1989 Manhattan	New York
The Monsters of Templeton	Lauren Groff	A young woman returns to her town, which has a new monster, to investigate history and her father's identity.	2008 Cooperstown	New York

The Price of Salt	Patricia Highsmith	During Christmas season, an older wealthy woman meets a young salesclerk at Bloomingdales, and their relationship is depicted in charged Highsmith perfection.	1952 New York	New York
The Sketchbook of Geoffrey Crayon	Washington Irving	Thirty stories and essays, including Legend of Sleepy Hollow and Rip Van Winkle, set in New York and elsewhere.	1820 Tarrytown	New York
The Stories of John Cheever	John Cheever	The classic stories, sixty-one of them, of the dissipation of love and dreams under the shimmering surface of life in orderly, wealthy suburbs.	1978 Tarrytown	New York
The Street	Ann Petry	Stunning, dramatic novel of Lutie Johnson, desiring better life for her son, betrayed by men and circumstance and the streets.	1946 Harlem	New York
The Ten-Year Nap	Meg Wolitzer	Intelligent, idealistic ambitious women put work lives on hold for children, and then attempt recovery of self and independence.	2008 Manhattan	New York
The Understory	Pamela Erens	A man recounts his obsessive loves, and in hallucinatory prose limns parks and bridges and streets of the city with constant walking.	2007 The Ramble, Central Park, Manhattan	New York
This Side of Brightness	Colum McCann	Men who built train tunnels and steel frameworks of the city, Irish and African and Native Americans whose lives endure in structure and story.	1998 East River, New York City	New York
Triangle	Katharine Weber	The last survivor of the horrific Triangle Shirtwaist fire, which killed 146 factory workers, lives to 106, telling the story.	2006 Washington Place, Greenwich Village	New York
Trust	Hernan Diaz	Prize-winning intricate puzzle of a novel, excavating layers of the city's past through immigrant families, wealth-building schemes, and the idea of truth in narratives of history.	2022 Chelsea	New York
Valley of the Dolls	Jacqueline Susann	Three young women, "a beauty, a brain, and a talent," take on Broadway in the controversial novel of drugs, sex, and fame.	1966 Manhattan	New York
Visitation Street	Ivy Pochoda	Two girls take a pink raft into the water, and one returns, setting off a summer of searching for the truth among a chorus of neighborhood characters in bars, housing projects and always, the pier; an atmospheric debut.	2013 Brooklyn	New York
Washington Square	Henry James	One woman's chance for romantic love, contested by her father, ruined by her suitor, in a brilliant short novel.	1880 New York	New York
We Are Gathered Here	Micah Perks	Historical novel of two women, miner's wife and mine-owner's niece, in the 1900s chaotic social era.	1996 Adirondacks Park	New York

We the Animals	Justin Torres	Three brothers, whose Puerto Rican father and white mother married as teens and are spectacularly incapable of parenting, create their own wild singular existence.	2011 Baldwinsville	New York
Bewilderment	Karen Tucker	Two unforgettable young women – Irene and Luce – are servers at a pool hall, best friends with deeply dangerous new habits, including drug money; when Luce decides to leave their tiny home, Irene is heartbroken.	2021 Troy	North Carolina
Cold Mountain	Charles Frazier	The long walking journey of a wounded Confederate deserter to return home to the woman he loves.	1997 Cold Mountain	North Carolina
Ellen Foster	Kaye Gibbons	In a voice like no other, a young girl tells the story of the dissolution of her family, and her attempts to find a new one.	1987 Rocky Mount	North Carolina
Even as We Breathe	Annette Saunooke Clapsaddle	In 1942, orphaned Cherokee teen Cowney Sequoyah is working on the grounds of a hotel now housing World War II prisoners-of-war, when a betrayal upends his life and threatens his plans for college, in this perceptive novel.	2020 Cherokee	North Carolina
Evensong	Gail Godwin	In a Smoky Mountain town, an Episcopal pastor and her priest husband host three people who upend their lives.	1999 High Balsam	North Carolina
Heathen Valley	Romulus Linney	A lyrical, haunting novel set in the 1850s, a sweeping history of people trying to find their own version of belief and religion in spiritual nature and the natural world, a bestseller at the time.	1962 Valle Crucis	North Carolina
Hello Down There	Michael Parker	In 1952, in a coastal small town, a young man descends into morphine after he kills his fiancé in a car accident.	1993 Elizabeth City	North Carolina
Here to Get My Baby Out of Jail	Louise Shivers	A tobacco farmer’s wife meets the wrong man, “wiry and tight as a coiled bedspring,” and tragedy follows.	1983 Tarborough	North Carolina
In Memory of Junior	Clyde Edgerton	In the uneasy confluence of Old South and New, families consider lifelong legacies and imminent deaths, with humor.	1992 Summerlin	North Carolina
In West Mills	De'Shawn Charles Winslow	A singular, beautiful unrepentant woman, Azalea “Knot” Centre, refuses to live as her small town expects, turning to her friend named Otis Lee – a lovely story about kinship, home, and books to save someone.	2019 South Mills	North Carolina
Jim the Boy	Tony Earley	A year in the life of a boy who is ten in the 1930s, growing up in a rural town with one mother and three uncles.	2000 Rutherfordton	North Carolina
Let the Dead Bury Their Dead	Randall Kenan	A completely original portrait of a town founded by a runaway slave, where story and legend are life.	1992 Tim's Creek	North Carolina

Nothing Gold Can Stay	Ron Rash	Fourteen stories varies from Civil War settings to contemporary casinos, but all with characteristic dark humor and geographic precision.	2013 Boiling Springs	North Carolina
Now You Know It All	Joanna Pearson	Prize-winning story collection of southern characters yearning for change, for redemption, maybe for new horizons in Italy, but always considering the pull of home.	2021 Shelby	North Carolina
Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All	Allan Gurganus	From Lucy Marsden's bed, an unforgettable story of her life from large poor family to becoming a child bride to a 50-year-old war captain, and considerable battles.	1989 Falls	North Carolina
Roxanna Slade	Reynolds Price	The long life and lost loves of a woman whose voice is full of music and metaphor and the history of a place.	1998 Macon	North Carolina
Tending to Virginia	Jill McCorkle	Ginny Turner, unhappily married and pregnant, is taken care of by three generations of women relatives.	1987 Lumberton	North Carolina
The House Behind the Cedars	Charles W. Chesnutt	Brave early depiction of two siblings of mixed-race who move fluidly between societies until illness, truth and tragedy complicate their lives.	1900 Fayetteville	North Carolina
Winter Birds	Jim Grimsley	Arresting novel of how childhood radiance and terrible fear of an abusive father are entwined in the landscape.	1994 Grifton	North Carolina
Born Brothers	Larry Woiwode	Brothers Charles and Jerome Neumiller hate each other, love each other, and whiskey helps the stories.	1988 Carrington	North Dakota
Love Medicine	Louise Erdrich	An astonishing chorus of voices and stories of death, love, betrayal, but always about home, in an unforgiving beautiful landscape.	1984 Wahpeton	North Dakota
Oh My Stars	Lorna Landvik	When a bus crashes, Violet – whose life in rural Kentucky was filled with tragedy – finds love in the most unlikely place, with a musician who rescues her, in a bestselling novel.	2005 Marion	North Dakota
Stephen Florida	Gabe Habash	A wrestler in his senior year at a small college struggles with obsession, violence, loneliness, and his past in this striking debut novel.	2017 Minot	North Dakota
The Bones of Plenty	Lois Phillips Hudson	During the hardest of hard times, the 1930s, a farming family tries to hold onto their land.	1962 Jamestown	North Dakota
The Grass Dancer	Susan Power	Linked stories of a community of Dakota Sioux people, from present day 1981 to 1864, many generations of love and tragedy and hope.	1994 Standing Rock Reservation	North Dakota
The Wedding Dress	Carrie Young	Seven stories of the tenderness and plainspoken humor required to live Depression-era life on the prairies.	1992 Little Butte	North Dakota

Betty	Tiffany McDaniel	Based on the life of the author's mother, of mixed Cherokee/white heritage, and her surprising, eventful life in the 1960s at the foothills of Appalachia.	2020 Jackson Lake	Ohio
Dale Loves Sophie to Death	Robb Forman Dew	Every summer a woman returns to her hometown, immersing herself in the landscape of her childhood.	1981 Enfield	Ohio
Everything I Never Told You	Celeste Ng	In 1977, a Chinese-American father, his blonde wife, and their three children spin out stories of racism, longing and loss, before and after the drowning of a daughter.	2014 Shaker Heights	Ohio
In the Heart of the Heart of the Country	William Gass	Dark virtuoso novellas and stories set in Midwestern places where reality and the myths of small town life are exploded in uncommon language.	1968 Warren	Ohio
Knockemstiff	Donald Ray Pollock	Surprising, brutal darkly comic stories of citizens – avaricious, malicious, hilarious, delirious - in the southern part of the state.	2008 Knockemstiff	Ohio
My Home is Far Away	Dawn Powell	A truly unsentimental autobiographical novel about early Midwestern hardship by a master novelist who survived, and left.	1944 North Olmstead	Ohio
Stay and Fight	Madeline Ffitch	Helen comes to Appalachia wanting community, and when her partner leaves, she stays to form a family with neighbors, farmers, children and the ever-changing land under siege in this fierce novel.	2019 Millfield	Ohio
Sula	Toni Morrison	A perfectly executed meditation on purest forms of love, of the smallest moments of death and betrayal, of the history of a town, through four women: Eva, Hannah, Sula, Nel.	1973 Lorain	Ohio
The Broom of the System	David Foster Wallace	A maximalist, brilliant, hilarious novel of the disappearance of a great-grandmother from a nursing home, and other things Midwestern and American.	1987 Shaker Heights	Ohio
The End	Salvatore Scibona	A deeply imagined portrait of Italian-American immigrants, seven decades leading to a son's death in the Korean War.	2008 Elephant Park	Ohio
The Greatest Thing Since Sliced Bread	Don Robertson	A boy and his red wagon make a pilgrimage across the entire city on a fateful day in 1944, in a novel about destiny.	1965 Cleveland	Ohio
Trashlands	Alison Stine	A stunning dystopian novel set in "Scrappalachia" after climate devastation, where young people use brilliant desperate means to survive and form community.	2021 Hocking River	Ohio
True Biz	Sara Novic	A brilliant bestselling novel set at a school for the Deaf, where two students and a headmistress are inextricably entwined in the fight to keep the school open, keep their sanity, and keep their community.	2022 Portsmouth	Ohio

Until We Have Faces: Stories	Michael Nye	A quirky, hilarious collection of narratives from places rarely seen, the lives of people devoted to their homes and friends, to their sports and to ideas of true love.	2020 Cincinnati	Ohio
Wench	Dolen Perkins-Valdez	Slave mistresses brought north to a resort called Tawawa House by the men who own them, where the four women consider their pasts, and freedom.	2010 Xenia Springs	Ohio
Winesburg, Ohio	Sherwood Anderson	Iconic and stylistic stories of guilt, secrets, cornfields and brick buildings, the longings of those on farms and in town, in daring admittance of American isolation.	1919 Clyde	Ohio
Calling For a Blanket Dance	Oscar Hokeah	A virtuoso novel of twelve voices, characters of Kiowa, Cherokee and Mexican heritage whose history of trauma and saving grace propels the story around a young man named Ever.	2022 Tahlequah	Oklahoma
Crooked Hallelujah	Kelli Jo Ford	In 1974, pregnant teen Justine, third generation in a family of deeply religious Cherokee women, leaves for Texas, has a daughter, but the pull of home is strong in this lovely lyrical novel.	2020 Marble City	Oklahoma
Falling Dark	Tim Tharp	A disheveled town, an ancient prairie landscape but a new evil, when harvest season means marijuana and a partner is not who he seems.	1999 Henryetta	Oklahoma
Flutie	Diane Glancy	A young girl, Cherokee and German, grows up in poverty, ceases speaking, but loves her father's world of cars, and her own stunning poetic visions.	2007 Vini	Oklahoma
Mean Spirit	Linda Hogan	Groundbreaking novel of the systematic murders of Osage and Creek people during the 1920s oil boom in Oklahoma.	1990 Watona	Oklahoma
Miko Kings: An Indian Baseball Story	LeAnne Howe	An evocative novel of baseball as it was played in Choctaw, Chickasaw and Cherokee territory in 1907.	2007 Ada	Oklahoma
Out of the Dust	Karen Hesse	Billie Jo, 14, tells the story of her family amid the nightmarish hardships of the Dust Bowl, in spare, moving verse.	1997 Joyce City	Oklahoma
The Long and Faraway Gone	Lou Berney	A man returns to his hometown, where he was the only survivor of an armed robbery, the same summer when a girl disappeared, in the best kind of literary thriller,	2015 Oklahoma City	Oklahoma
The Mercy Seat	Rilla Askew	A family leaves Kentucky, loses a mother in Arkansas, and makes a new, hard life of 1800s Oklahoma in incantatory prose.	1997 Sans Bois	Oklahoma
The Outsiders	S.E. Hinton	No reader ever forgets Ponyboy, Darry, Sodapop, Dallas and Johnny after walking these streets with these young men.	1967 Tulsa	Oklahoma

The Removed	Brandon Hobson	A Cherokee family, fractured by the police shooting of a beloved son, gathers together for a ceremony to honor him; his parents and siblings grieve, try to recover, and enter new spiritual lands in a remarkable narrative.	2021 Tahlequah	Oklahoma
Where the Heart Is	Billie Letts	Novalee Nation, seventeen and pregnant, is stranded and takes refuge in a Wal-Mart, in a town bent on her rescue.	1995 Sequoyah	Oklahoma
Where the Red Fern Grows	Wilson Rawls	A man remembers his Ozark childhood, when he raised two redbone coonhounds from puppies, their loyalty and adventures in the woods.	1961 Scrapper	Oklahoma
Beezus and Ramona	Beverly Cleary	Famed children's novel, as sisters Beatrice and Ramona Quimby roam their world with annoyance and imagination.	1955 Klickitat Street, Portland	Oregon
Honey in the Horn	H.L. Davis	During the homestead years, an orphan boy works on a sheep ranch, then moves through forest, mountain, field in a classic journey tale.	1935 Willamette Valley	Oregon
Lean on Pete	Willy Vlautin	When Charley, at 15, is left homeless after his father's death, he takes refuge at a run-down horse track, with a horse no one wants, always hoping for a real home, in this amazing novel.	2010 Portland	Oregon
Mink River	Brian Doyle	This coastal village is the main character of an evanescent novel, along with crows, bears, and some nameless humans.	2010 Neawanaka	Oregon
My Abandonment	Peter Rock	Mesmerizing story of Caroline and Father, living in a city nature preserve because of his disturbing fears, until a random encounter provokes flight.	2009 Forest Park, Portland	Oregon
Night Dogs	Kent Anderson	A police officer who survived Vietnam working a city precinct, watching roaming canines, roaming people, and roaming cops during the dark.	1996 Portland	Oregon
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest	Ken Kesey	Chief Bromden and Randle Patrick McMurphy versus Nurse Mildred Ratched in the iconic novel of asylum and rebellion.	1962 Salem	Oregon
Searoad: Chronicles of Klatsand	Ursula K. LeGuin	Linked stories of a coastal town by the master of speculative fiction, gleaming, shapeshifting, provocative.	1991 Klatsand	Oregon
The Beadworkers	Beth Piatote	A vivid kaleidoscope of stories about indigenous families – Nez Perce, Cayuse, Lakota – with pasts of salmon fishing, bead design, love, remorse, and reconciliation.	2019 The Dalles	Oregon
The Girl Who Fell from the Sky	Heidi Durrow	After terrible tragedy, a young mixed-race girl travels to live with her grandmother, and discovers her own identity and strengths.	2010 Portland	Oregon

The Hawkline Monster: A Gothic Western	Richard Brautigan	A parody of the classic western, featuring two gunmen, Greer and Cameron, in a violent, haunted 1902.	1974 Dead Hills	Oregon
The Jump-Off Creek	Molly Gloss	In the 1890s, a resourceful widow makes a home in the harsh terrain of the Blue Mountains.	1989 Jump-Off Creek	Oregon
The Residue Years	Mitchell S. Jackson	In a rough neighborhood scarred by crack in the 1990s, Champ tries to keep his family safe and intact, though his mother Grace has fallen into drug use, in this gripping autobiographical debut novel.	2013 Portland	Oregon
The River Why	David James Duncan	A young man leaves his family for a remote cabin to make fishing his only life, only to discover a new life in people.	1983 Wilson River	Oregon
The Wilding	Benjamin Percy	Three generations of men take a last hunting trip before a mountain canyon is turned into a manicured development.	2010 Echo Canyon	Oregon
Winterkill	Craig Lesley	Danny Kachiah, rodeo rider, Nez Perce father, takes his son to the sacred burial ground of Chief Joseph, as family tradition.	1984 Wallowa Mountains	Oregon
A Crooked Tree	Una Mannion	A suspenseful debut, as single mom Faye forces 12-year old Ellen to walk home after a fight; her disappearance shatters the family, unfurling secret histories.	2021	Pennsylvania
American Rust	Phillipp Meyer	A steel town crumbles, young men dream of escape, a community holds on, and lyrical narrative defines the landscape.	2009 Buell	Pennsylvania
Becoming Olive W	S. Lee Fisher	In 1905, a beautiful, defiant teenager is stunned when she's expelled from school, and begins to reimagine her life in a hard patriarchal landscape, using everything she has to find her independence, in this women's fiction series.	2021 Campbell County	Pennsylvania
Damballah	John Edgar Wideman	Interlocking stories of powerful raw grace spanning decades, from runaway slaves to runaway teens, with spirits and dreams lingering.	1981 Homewood, Pittsburgh	Pennsylvania
Dry Bones in the Valley	Tom Bouman	Henry Farrell, raised in the remote villages of northeastern Pennsylvania, is a township deputy now, pursuing a killer in the deep forests and meth labs of the Endless Mountains, in this amazing debut mystery.	2014 Franklin Forks	Pennsylvania
Fever 1793	Laurie Halse Anderson	A beautiful, harrowing novel of a brave resourceful girl surviving the terrible yellow fever epidemic in early America.	2001 Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
God's Pocket	Pete Dexter	On a construction site, a young man is murdered, and a hardscrabble neighborhood is affected in this tough dazzling novel.	1983 South Philadelphia	Pennsylvania

Just Plain Murder	Laura Bradford	An engrossing debut mystery set in fictional Heavenly, Amish country, featuring a detective shunned by his family for choosing law enforcement, and the hometown woman he loves.	2018 Paradise	Pennsylvania
Long Bright River	Liz Moore	A tense, gripping thriller about a detective trying to find a serial killer of women, and find the sister she lost long ago to drugs, under the bridges and along the river of the city.	2019 Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
Loving Day	Mat Johnson	The son of an Irish father and black mother, himself a “racial optical illusion,” inherits a crumbling house, finds his daughter, and strafes race and class in explosively comic narrative.	2015 North Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
Now You See It: Stories from Cokesville, PA	Bathsheba Monk	Seventeen remarkable stories spanning 50 years in a town once dominated by coal mine, steel mill, work and immigrant traditions, now falling apart.	2006 Bethlehem	Pennsylvania
Old School	Tobias Wolff	At an elite prep school, a literary-minded boy navigates class and deception, and his love of iconic writers gives him exemplary tone.	2003 Pottstown	Pennsylvania
Plum Bun: A Novel without a Moral	Jessie Redmon Fauset	Angela Murray, whose light skin allows her to pass for white, leaves the city after her parents die, falling into betrayal in this bestselling novel.	1925 Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
Rabbit, Run	John Updike	No other voice could describe the ironies and lyricisms of daily 1950s life in a decaying city like Harry “Rabbit” Angstrom, in the first of a quartet.	1960 Reading	Pennsylvania
Relief Map	Rosalie Knecht	After a fugitive hides in her small town, a quiet teen girl observes all the subterranean dangers in her community, layers of deceit, in this absorbing novel.	2016 Windber	Pennsylvania
Sarah Phillips	Andrea Lee	Remembrances of a girl raised in a black family with a history of activism, a preacher’s daughter who loves lucid and beautiful language.	1984 Yeadon	Pennsylvania
Such a Fun Age	Kiley Reid	On a fateful day, a young black woman working as a nanny is mistakenly thought to be kidnapping her white toddler charge, exploding the worlds of race, class, work, family, and belonging, in this debut novel.	2019 Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
Take What You Need	Idra Novey	Leah has left the impoverished town where her stepmother Jean lives, but both women reconnect	2023 Wilmerding	Pennsylvania
The Chaneyville Incident	David Bradley	Epic, gripping novel of a black historian discovering the truth about his father’s death, and the deaths of thirteen runaway slaves on the Underground Railroad.	1981 Chaneyville	Pennsylvania
The Lovely Bones	Alice Sebold	A teenage girl is murdered, and her spirit watches the dissolution of her family, and meets other victims, in an extraordinary voice.	2002 Norristown	Pennsylvania

The Mysteries of Pittsburgh	Michael Chabon	Art Bechstein’s elaborate and perceptive examination of 1980s class and social mores, and his own longings and desires.	1988 Pittsburgh	Pennsylvania
The Patch Boys	Jay Parini	In a vividly-described coal mining town, a large Italian family watches as one son falls in love with a Protestant girl.	1986 Luzerne	Pennsylvania
The Price of a Child	Lorene Cary	Ginnie Pryor, a Virginia slave, is taken north with her master; he forces her to leave one of her children behind for insurance, yet she escapes, yearning for that child.	1995 Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
The School for Good Mothers	Jessamine Chan	A terrifying believable novel about a harried mother who works too hard, who leaves her baby daughter alone for part of a day, leading to the ruin of her life.	2022 Passyunk Square	Pennsylvania
Third and Indiana	Steve Lopez	In the “Badlands” neighborhood, young men try to survive the drug trade and the machinations of money, with love and art and cunning, in this haunting novel.	1994 Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
Tumbling	Diane McKinney-Whetstone	Evocative first novel of an African-American neighborhood with deep loyalties in the 1940s and 50s.	1996 South Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
With the Fire on High	Elizabeth Acevedo	Emoni Santiago is raising a baby girl with her abuela, surviving high school and life through her fantastical cooking and family love in this bestseller.	2019 North Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
Agatha of Little Neon	Claire Luchette	Agatha and three fellow nuns are sent to run a halfway-house for recovering addicts and recent parolees in a brilliant, hilarious and touching debut novel.	2021 Woonsocket	Rhode Island
Calm at Sunset, Calm at Dawn	Paul Watkins	The son of a fisherman works on a dilapidated scallop trawler, where brutality and the sea almost always win.	1989 Newport	Rhode Island
How Are You Going to Save Yourself?	JM Holmes	Four young Black men – Gio, Dub, Rolls and Rye – grow up fiercely loyal, but as their adult lives pull them apart, the friends try to maintain their bonds and love for home in a voice-driven narrative.	2018 Pawtucket	Rhode Island
Murder at Crossways	Alyssa Maxwell	Set in 1898, this mystery is full of the Gilded Age in Newport, with landscape featuring royalty, romance and murder by stabbing.	2019 Newport	Rhode Island
Outside Providence	Peter Farrelly	A young man grows up working-class with troublesome friends and is sent to prep school, where rich kids are equally troublesome.	1988 Providence	Rhode Island
She’s Come Undone	Wally Lamb	The epic, entertaining life of Dolores Price, whose voice remains compelling through disaster and redemption.	1992 Newport	Rhode Island

The Edge of Winter	Luanne Rice	During winter on an icy beach in a state park, a complicated cast of characters develop relationships.	2007 South County	Rhode Island
The Memory of Running	Ron McLarty	A Vietnam vet whose parents have died leaves his toy factory job to ride across the nation on a bicycle, to reclaim the body of his sister.	1999 East Providence	Rhode Island
Winner of the National Book Award: A Novel of Fame, Honor and Really Bad Weather	Jincy Willett	Dorcas, a librarian who likes to make fun of rewarded novels, and her twin Abigail, who has an actual life, with resoundingly hilarious tales of American history.	2003 Frome	Rhode Island
Bastard out of Carolina	Dorothy Allison	An iconic novel, incantatory, raging, wild and tender, of Bone, her fierce eye and physical struggle for survival against her stepfather and others who cannot see her worth.	1992 Greenville	South Carolina
Brown Girl Dreaming	Jacqueline Woodson	A novel in evocative verse, a girl feeling halfway between New York and the south of her mother's childhood, where Jim Crow remains in the 1960s and 70s.	2014 Greenville	South Carolina
Edisto	Padgett Powell	The arresting comic voice of Everson Manigault, 12, and his view of people, black and white, of his family and island.	1984 Edisto Island	South Carolina
Gap Creek	Robert Morgan	In an isolated mountain community, a young couple is stunned by physical hardship, but find pleasure in living.	1999 Gap Creek	South Carolina
In the Heat of the Night	John Ball	A brilliant black investigator, Virgil Tibbs, challenges the racism of a small town and its police chief.	1965 Wells	South Carolina
Mama Day	Gloria Naylor	A love story with Shakespearean tones, about a New York man who loves a daughter of one Sea Island settled by a legendary African-born woman and her seven sons.	1988 Willow Springs	South Carolina
Porgy	DuBose Heyward	A man fights for his love in the novel turned into opera, set in a historic black neighborhood populated by Gullah-speaking people.	2008 Charleston	South Carolina
Sassafras, Cypress and Indigo	Ntozake Shange	Beloved novel of three sisters, an artist and a dancer who leave, and a poet who stays home, and their deep abiding beliefs.	1982 Charleston	South Carolina
Scarlet Sister Mary	Julia Peterkin	A groundbreaking novel about a former plantation's black community, where Mary, abandoned by her lover, chooses absolute independence for herself and her children.	1928 Fort Motte	South Carolina
South of Broad	Pat Conroy	Suicide, childhood, and wounded lives are entwined with the Low Country landscape for brothers and men.	2009 Charleston	South Carolina
Sweetwater Creek	Anne Rivers Siddons	On a former plantation, now family home, a girl's mother leaves and her older brother commits suicide, leaving her with only the love of her dogs.	2005 Hunting Island	South Carolina

The Hunt Club	Bret Lott	A young man finds a headless body on family hunting ground, and deep secrets are unearthed in a literary thriller.	1998 Mount Pleasant	South Carolina
The Indigo Girl	Natasha Boyd	Based on the life of Eliza Lucas Pinckney, this novel traces a teenage girl able only because of ingenious enslaved peoples to manage a plantation in 1739, who later frees the African-descended families.	2018 Charleston	South Carolina
The Invention of Wings	Sue Monk Kidd	A novelized life of the Grimke sisters, abolitionists, and Hetty, given in 1803 as child slave, who believes in her own freedom.	2014 Charleston	South Carolina
The Southern Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires	Grady Hendrix	An addictive, absolutely, but scary novel? All three describe this, where the women take on the survival of their families, and the opposite for a vampire.	2020 Mt. Pleasant	South Carolina
The Tubman Command	Elizabeth Hobbs	A historical novel about Harriet Tubman's fierce intellect and immense success in planning the escapes of hundreds of enslaved people, thwarting armies and vigilantes again and again to lead people to freedom.	2019 Combahee River	South Carolina
Leaving the Land	Douglas Unger	Corporate farms begin to destroy ranching life, and one woman laments her losses but refuses to give up.	1984 Nowell	South Dakota
Parasites Like Us	Adam Johnson	A tumultuous comic thriller, as an anthropologist and students excavate an ancient burial site and bones release apocalypse.	2003 Badlands	South Dakota
Skins	Adrian C. Louis	Two brothers with very different lives – one is a police officer, the other an alcoholic – strive to reconcile their loyalties to each other and their Pine Ridge reservation community in this classic novel.	1995 Oglala	South Dakota
Spirit of the Hills	Dan O'Brien	A thriller set on ranching land and in the Black Hills, with a mysterious killer believed a buffalo wolf.	1988 Medicine Springs	South Dakota
The Golden Bowl	Frederick Manfred	Maury Grant, 14, travels the devastation of the Dust Bowl and Depression, in a powerful first novel.	1944 Highway 16, Badlands	South Dakota
The Personal History of Rachel Dupree	Ann Weisgarber	A homesteading black wife suffers the ambitions of her husband, the loss of children, and hardships of an unforgiving terrain.	2008 Badlands	South Dakota
The Work of Wolves	Kent Meyers	Four young men – two Native American, one a German exchange student, and one a cowboy, connect through rescue of neglected horses.	2004 Twisted Tree	South Dakota
Winter Counts	David Heska Wanbli Weiden	Virgil tries to heal and protect his Lakota community through physical force and spiritual love, helping elders and youth find identity and solace, in this compelling novel.	2020 Mission	South Dakota
A Death in the Family	James Agee	A partially autobiographical novel, quietly devastating, of young Rufus, his mother and sister, and a father's fateful car accident.	1957 Knoxville	Tennessee

Before We Were Yours	Lisa Wingate	In 1939, five children are taken forcibly to an orphanage; the oldest girl, Rill, fights against cruelty to keep them together, in this bestseller based on a true story.	2017 Memphis	Tennessee
Child of God	Lolita Files	Three generations of the Boten family fight the curses of the past and retain fierce hope for the future.	2001 Downtown	Tennessee
Christy	Catherine Marshall	A bestseller about a young woman who leaves North Carolina to teach school in an isolated mountain community in the Smoky Mountains, in 1912, learning for herself the ingenious and close-knit ways of families there.	1967 Del Rio	Tennessee
Do Lord Remember Me	Julius Lester	An elderly preacher recalls his childhood in Mississippi, his life singing gospel in black churches, and the Civil Rights movement.	1985 Nashville	Tennessee
Evidence of Things Unseen	Marianne Wiggins	Veteran of WWII, Fos and his wife Opal move to her mother's farm and have a son, but the land is claimed by the New Deal; when Fos works at the Oak Ridge Laboratory where bombs are developed, his family is in great peril.	2003 Oak Ridge	Tennessee
I Hate to See That Evening Sun Go Down	William Gay	Thirteen unforgettable stories of rural life and change in inimitable voices old and young, raging and regretful, dappled with light.	2002 Hohenwald	Tennessee
Memphis	Tara Stringfellow	A stunning evocation of seventy years of history in one family's life in Memphis, with strong community, secrets, and violence at the heart of this bestseller.	2022 Memphis	Tennessee
Soldier's Joy	Madison Smartt Bell	Two Vietnam veterans return to the small town where they grew up, and in valiant everyday ways try to reclaim life.	1989 Williamson County	Tennessee
Taft	Ann Patchett	A former blues musician, now manager of Muddy's bar, takes care of two young people adrift after their father's death, with a chorus of patrons.	1994 Memphis	Tennessee
The Black Flower	Howard Bahr	The Battle of Franklin in 1864 as told through Bushrod Carter, foot soldier, and the woman who tends his wounds.	1997 Franklin	Tennessee
The Hangman's Beautiful Daughter	Sharyn McCrumb	Four people die in a remote Appalachian area, and two children are left to be raised, in this haunting mystery.	1992 Dark Hollow	Tennessee
The Widow of the South	Robert Hicks	Historical novel based on the story of Carrie McGavock, who buried 1,491 Confederate dead on family land, in 1864.	2005 Franklin	Tennessee

A Ballad of Love and Glory	Reyna Grande	A vivid, character-driven historical novel about the Irish soldiers and Mexican military who joined forces during the 1846 battle at the border, giving readers unknown stories of men and women fighting for independence.	2022 Fort Brown	Texas
All the Pretty Horses	Cormac McCarthy	Incantatory, gripping novel of two young men crossing the border to Mexico, working as cowboys, finding love, extreme violence, and desolation.	1992 San Angelo	Texas
All Things Left Wild	James Wade	Two brothers on the run after a horse theft, chased by a woman who knows the land, and a man who doesn't, on an odyssey across the arid lands and violent past of Texas in the early 1900s in this award-winning novel.	2020	Texas
And the Earth Did Not Devour Him	Tomas Rivera	Stories of a year in the lives of a migrant family moving with harvests and returning home, in spare, spiritual prose.	1971 Crystal City	Texas
Axeman's Jazz	Tracy Daugherty	Three generations of an African-American family in a neighborhood representing American conflicts and history.	2003 Houston	Texas
Black Light	Kaitlyn Parsons	Wild and surprising stories featuring characters who never do the expected, set in Texas landscapes rendered in lush comic style.	2019 Lubbock	Texas
Black Water Rising	Attica Locke	The complicated life of Jay Porter in a compelling portrait of the city's 1980s oil boom, racial complexities and family loyalty.	2009 Houston	Texas
Brownsville: Stories	Oscar Casares	Linked by love and geography, the residents of the Mexican-American community near the Rio Grande star in bittersweet, entertaining stories.	2001 Brownsville	Texas
Carry Me Like Water	Benjamin Alire Saenz	A poetic novel floating on language, where a deaf-mute young man left by his migrant family survives as a dishwasher.	1995 El Paso	Texas
Corpus Christi	Bret Anthony Johnston	Haunting yet unsentimental stories of fathers and sons, women they love, in a place always waiting for the next storm.	2004 Corpus Christi	Texas
End Zone	Don DeLillo	Gary Harkness is not the star, but a blocking back, on the football team of a small college, learning love and fearing annihilation.	1972 West Texas	Texas
Giant	Edna Ferber	Scandalous at the time, this novel tried to be all of Texas, in very broad strokes, but a ranch spanning four counties was the heart of the landscape.	1952 Kingsville	Texas
Growing Through the Ugly	Diego Vazquez Jr.	A startling, unforgettable novel set in the early 60s, when a boy grows up in a Texas Chicano family full of raw honesty, and acceptance for his queer identity.	1997 El Paso	Texas

Guero-Guero	Eliud Martinez	A posthumous story collection about generations of Mexican-born and Chicano Texans, remembering journeys, battles, and romances that cross borders.	2021 Pflugerville	Texas
More than You'll Ever Know	Katie Gutierrez	An addictive thriller about a true crime writer's quest to know the truth of Dolores, a woman married to one man in Laredo, and one man in Mexico City; one murders the other, and Dolores' life is revealed.	2022 Laredo	Texas
News of the World	Paulette Jiles	In unforgettable, poetic imagery, the perilous 1870 journey through Texas of Captain Jefferson Kidd to return a young girl taken by Kiowa back to what is left of her family.	2016 Wichita Falls	Texas
Old Yeller	Fred Gipson	A young boy on a ranch in the 1860s adopts a stray dog which saves the family again and again, until a final tragedy.	1956 Salt Lick	Texas
Olympus, Texas	Stacey Swann	This ambitious debut novel uses Greek myth as structure for the large fractious family whose tales are told in small-town Texas, love and death, divorce and hilarious reprisals.	2021 Sealy	Texas
Paco's Story	Larry Heinemann	Paco Sullivan, the lone survivor of a Vietnam firefight, covered with burns, finds a town in which to attempt healing.	1986 Boone	Texas
Perish	LaToya Watkins	In a fictional West Texas town, four generations of family struggle with the heart of their inheritance, as Helen Jean, the matriarch, holds the key to their past, in this debut bestseller.	2022 Jerusalem	Texas
Rain of Scorpions	Estella Portillo Trambley	First story collection by an American Latina published in the US, tales of miners and Mexican aristocrats, of gypsies, healers and lovers.	1975 El Paso	Texas
Ruby	Cynthia Bond	A young woman too beautiful and free for a town, and the man who spends his life loving and trying to save her in a compelling debut.	2014 Liberty	Texas
Sofia's Saints	Diana Lopez	Sofia Saucedo's complicated life as artist, waitress, and woman trying to keep her beloved childhood home.	2002 Corpus Christi	Texas
Sweetbitter	Reginald Gibbons	Sweetbitter, half-Choctaw, half-white, must live as a chameleon-like human, loving a white woman, navigating fear, racism and love, lyrically detailed.	1994 Three Rivers	Texas
The Bottoms	Joe R. Lansdale	East Texas in 1933 is no place for a young boy and his sister to find two dead women near the Sabine River, one black, one white, in this literary thriller.	2010 Laborde	Texas
The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate	Jacqueline Kelly	In 1899, Callie refuses the restrictions of expected girlhood, studying biology and animals with her naturalist grandfather, in this spirited novel of central Texas.	2009 Fentress	Texas

The Family Izquierdo	Ruben Degollada	Generations of family in a border town use belief and loyalty to counter a spell cast by a man jealous of their success in this vibrant debut novel.	2022 McAllen	Texas
The House of Breath	William Goyen	Not a novel, more a longing, lovely meditation on the landscape of childhood in a small river town.	1950 Trinity	Texas
The Last Karankawas	Kimberly Garza	Carly Castillo grows up in the tight-knit community of Filipino, Mexican-American and indigenous peoples in Fish Village, which is threatened by Hurricane Ike, in this mesmerizing debut novel.	2022 Galveston	Texas
The Last Known Residence of Mickey Acuna	Dagoberto Gilb	In the YMCA, a drifter and Chicano raconteur, precise observer of his fellow men and women, shares the myths of belonging.	1994 El Paso	Texas
The Last Picture Show	Larry McMurtry	This small town is the main character, its residents playing football, dreaming of sex, working oil fields, and always moving, moving.	1966 Thalia	Texas
The Last Tortilla & Other Stories	Sergio Troncoso	A richly imagined collection of narratives about love, loss, desire, food, and the singular way life along the border weaves all of these together.	1999 El Paso	Texas
The Loop	Joe Coomer	Lyman, eccentric and orphaned, drives the beltway all night keeping asphalt clear of human, animal and geologic debris.	1992 Fort Worth	Texas
The Pistoleer	James Carlos Blake	Novel of John Wesley Hardin, legendary killer, the last true gunfighters in the Old West, told with incendiary prose.	1995 El Paso	Texas
The River Beyond the World	Janet Peery	The long connection of Luisa, of Salsipuedes, Mexico, and Edwina Hatch, wealthy Texan, and their children.	1996 Rio Grande Valley	Texas
The Shinnery	Kate Anger	A deeply-felt historical novel based on 1800s family history, when Jessa leaves her homestead for a town where a beguiling criminal ruins her life, causing her father to resort to vigilante justice.	2022 Old Glory	Texas
The Three Beths	Jeff Abbott	Mariah's mother Beth disappeared a year ago – now two other women named Beth go missing; Mariah is determined to find them, in this atmospheric thriller.	2018 Lakehaven	Texas
The Which Way Tree	Elizabeth Crook	A girl whose family was killed by a legendary panther teams up with a young man to hunt the big cat, but they are themselves being hunted by a former Confederate soldier, in this atmospheric novel set in 1866.	2018 Julian Creek	Texas
Valentine	Elizabeth Wetmore	In 1976 Odessa, women's lives are always at risk; a young Chicana girl is brutally attacked, and the housewife who protects her is irrevocably changed, in this distinctive novel of oil fields and outcasts.	2020 Odessa	Texas

Valley of Shadows	Rudy Ruiz	An immersive novel weaving magic, Western, horror and history as Solitario Cisneros investigates murder and violence along shifting borders of the Rio Grande.	2022 Brownsville	Texas
Valleyesque	FA Flores	A stunningly inventive and compelling collection, of defiant teens and drifters, of elderly dreamers and always, the Rio Grande Valley along la frontera, the landscape of visions and violence.	2022 Hidalgo	Texas
A Particular Kind of Black Man	Tope Folarin	A Nigerian couple, moved to America, has two beloved sons, but when their mother descends into mental illness, the family feels isolation as they're fractured and must seek peace.	2019 Bountiful	Utah
Riders of the Purple Sage	Zane Grey	Epic battles as Jane tries to leave her LDS family and arranged marriage, rescued by the cowboy Lassiter, on horseback in the West.	1912 Surprise Valley	Utah
Strange Children	Sadie Hoagland	Two teens from a polygamous Mormon community in the southern desert run away to be together – but one is forced back home, to marry the father of her beloved, in this searing novel.	2021 Hildale	Utah
The 19th Wife	David Ebershoff	Two women – one the 19th wife of Brigham Young, one the 19th wife of a contemporary polygamist, one historical and one fictional, in braided narratives.	2008 Salt Lake City	Utah
The Lonely Polygamist	Brady Udall	Golden Richards, a man with four wives and 28 children, has many of the same existential and practical crises as any other man.	2010 Teasdale	Utah
The Open Curtain	Brian Evenson	A dark literary thriller in which a high school boy discovers a half-brother, who leads him to terrible blood atonement with echoes of Mormon history.	2006 Provo	Utah
The Thousand Crimes of Ming Tsu	Tom Lin	A western like no other, with Ming exacting revenge on the men who kidnapped him to work on the railroad, taking him away from his wife, a tale of retribution and history that cannot be put down.	2022 Corinne	Utah
Utah! A Novel	Levi Rogers	A novel set in the near future of climate change, when Yellowstone has become a supervolcano, when a family journeys through the state to a wedding in Zion, meeting every kind of Utahan imaginable.	2021	Utah
When the Emperor Was Divine	Julie Otsuka	Devastating historical novel of Japanese-American internment, ordinary citizens surviving alkaline desert camps, families irrevocably altered.	2002 Topaz	Utah
A Day No Pigs Would Die	Robert Newton Peck	An amazing, spare voice in YA fiction, a rural life in the early part of the century when fathers and sons and animals inhabit the land as warm-blooded equals trying to keep themselves alive.	1972 Sunderland	Vermont

Midwives	Chris Bohjalian	A fateful night, a life-or-death decision, in frigid winter changes everything for a midwife in a rural town in 1981.	1997 Reddington	Vermont
October Light	John Gardner	In a farmhouse are barely surviving a widowed sister and her 72-year-old brother, who rages at the world in mythic terms.	2005 Bennington	Vermont
Project X	Jim Shepard	Two misfit, alienated boys in the eighth grade plan a mass shooting in an eerie novel which perfectly represents how school feels.	2004 Mill River	Vermont
Songs in Ordinary Time	Mary McGarry Morris	A small town in 1960 turns dangerous for a divorced mother of three whose loneliness leads her to a con man.	1995 Atkinson	Vermont
The Lottery and Other Stories	Shirley Jackson	In an unnamed fictional village, life can continue in idyllic tranquility only if a savage ritual takes place.	1948 North Bennington	Vermont
The Winter People	Jennifer McMahon	In a town haunted by the death of a mother and daughter in 1908, decades later Alice disappears, and her two daughters find a diary, and numerous terrifying secrets, in their quest to find her, in this suspenseful novel.	2014 West Berlin	Vermont
A Country of Strangers	Susan Richards Shreve	Two families, one black and one white, in WWII, in a tense novel of landscape and mystery.	1989 Elm Grove	Virginia
A Stolen Life	Jane Louise Curry	A children's historical novel about 49 Scottish children stolen by "spirited" in 1758, taken to boats and sold to plantations in America, including Jamesina and her journey to free Cherokee country.	1999 Shirley Plantation	Virginia
Big Stone Gap	Adriana Trigiani	Generations of a family in the Blue Ridge Mountains, told with humor and history.	2001 Big Stone Gap	Virginia
Black Mountain Breakdown	Lee Smith	Twenty affecting, sometimes humorous, sometimes terrifying, years in the life of Crystal in her small town.	1980 Black Mountain	Virginia
Black Thunder	Arna Bontemps	A historical novel based on an actual 1800 slave revolt, featuring voices from slave to slaveowner as chaos descends.	1936 Richmond	Virginia
Blacktop Wasteland	SA Cosby	Propulsive and slyly comic, a novel with deep love for cars, marriage, fatherhood and retribution, all with Bug Beauregard's unforgettable view of the world.	2020 Mathews	Virginia
Horse People	Cary Holladay	Beautifully-told but hard-edged stories of singular women and men through decades of landscape ruled by river, war, and beloved horses.	2013 Rapidan	Virginia
House of Leaves	Mark J. Danielewski	A found book, a story within a story, a rural house, and limitless narrative space in this inimitable novel.	2000 Rappahannock	Virginia

Manywhere	Morgan Thomas	A stellar debut collection of inventive, amazing stories, set in many places of the South, with star turns for young people trying to reinvent themselves, trying to find their identities, and with a great eye for place.	2022 Jamestown	Virginia
Mattaponi Queen	Belle Boggs	Linked eloquent and lyrical stories of several generations of families whose lives are entwined with history, waterways, betrayal and place.	2010 Mattaponi Reservation	Virginia
My Monticello	Jocelyn Nicole Johnson	A prescient absorbing book of near-future racial violence, the title novella featuring descendants of Jefferson fighting white nationalists on the grounds of Monticello, and other stories of reckoning.	2021 Charlottesville	Virginia
The Book of Numbers	Robert Deane Pharr	A riveting literary crime novel featuring Dave and Blueboy, waiters turned entrepreneurial numbers runners, in a portrait of 1930s black life.	1969 Richmond	Virginia
The House Girl	Tara Conklin	In 1852, Josephine, though enslaved, is a brilliant painter whose art is credited to a white mistress; decades later, Lina, a lawyer, searches the story of Josephine's life and talent.	2013 Lyndhurst	Virginia
The Ice at the Bottom of the World	Mark Richard	Exceptional stories of fleeting moments and long histories, especially of children, in a watery southern place.	1989 Franklin	Virginia
The Kitchen House	Kathleen Grissom	A young Irish orphan is an indentured servant in 1791, working under the master's mixed-race slave daughter.	2010 Tidewater	Virginia
The Tidewater Tales	John Barth	For two weeks, a couple sails on their boat Story, telling epic tales in a post-modern Arabian Nights.	1987 Chesapeake Bay	Virginia
The Yellow Birds	Kevin Powers	Though this powerful war novel shows imagery and anguish from Germany to Fort Knox, its terrifying heart is in Iraq and back in a small Virginia hometown.	2012 Richmond	Virginia
Cathedral	Raymond Carver	Stories with sentences of gem-like precision, characters of faltering belief and matchless voices, trying to make sense of the world.	1983 Yakima	Washington
Land of the Blind	Jess Walter	A dark and poetic evocation of two men's lives, inextricably entwined, heard by a tired female detective waiting for a crime.	2002 Spokane	Washington
Red Mountain	Boo Walker	In the vineyards of eastern Washington, four characters – a winemaker, a single mother, a high school girl, and a former orphan – find their lives and secrets crossing the landscape, in this bestseller.	2016 Red Mountain	Washington
Salt Dancers	Ursula Hegi	A woman, newly pregnant at 41, returns to her childhood home, where her own mother abandoned the family long ago.	1995 Spokane	Washington

Snow Falling on Cedars	David Guterson	In 1954, a murder brings to the surface racial hatred, infidelity, and the lingering resentments of war and its aftermath.	1994 San Juan Islands	Washington
Tacoma Stories	Richard Wiley	This city is the heart of narratives spanning decades, following sixteen bar patrons through the lives in lovely melancholy and humor.	2019 Tacoma	Washington
The Art of Racing in the Rain	Garth Stein	Narrated by Enzo, an empathetic, amazing dog named for the founder of Ferrari, this bestselling novel follows the life his owner, a race car driver whose loves and losses are always known to his canine soulmate.	2008 Seattle	Washington
The Living	Annie Dillard	A panoramic yet intimate historical novel of the indigenous peoples of Bellingham Bay in 1855, and the arrivals from Europe and Asia who try to survive there as well.	1992 Whatcom	Washington
The Lone Ranger & Tonto Fistfight in Heaven	Sherman Alexie	In 22 linked stories, Victor Joseph and Thomas Builds-the-Fire recount their extraordinary lives in revolutionary narratives told in a poet's language.	1993 Wellpinit	Washington
This is How it Always Is	Laurie Frankel	Penn and Rosie meet in an emergency room, fall in love, and raise five sons; when the youngest, Claude, identifies as a girl, the family's life changes in innumerable ways, a singular bestseller, a chorus of resilience and love.	2017 Seattle	Washington
Twilight	Stephanie Meyer	In the forests dripping with rain, just outside a small town, handsome and terrifying creatures vie for Isabella's love.	2005 Forks	Washington
Where'd You Go, Bernadette	Maria Semple	A hilariously-unhappy mother, unable to deal with life as expected, disappears, leaving her family to examine the clues of her existence, in this bestseller.	2012 Seattle	Washington
Wolfsong	Louis Owens	When an elderly Stehemish man dies, his nephew returns from California and continues the fight to save the forests from development.	1991 Cascade Mountains	Washington
All Aunt Hagar's Children	Edward P. Jones	Ornate and astonishing stories of life in the capital, a place to which Southern black people fled, sometimes finding love, always living with remembrance.	2006 Washington	Washington, D.C.
Children of Men	Jeanne Schinto	Cathy, a young girl known as "Bird Legs," falls in love with a childhood friend and fellow ballplayer, but after losing him, her life spirals downward.	1991 Southeast Washington	D.C. Washington, D.C.
Flying Home: Seven Stories of the Secret City	David Nicholson	Decades of black life in one neighborhood, tenderly told through music, work, sports, fathers and daughters, mothers and sons.	2015 LeDroit Park	Washington, D.C.

Henry and Clara	Thomas Mallon	Henry Rathbone and Clara Harris, in the Presidential box when Lincoln is shot, whose lives then descend into cruel tragedy.	1994 Ford's Theater	Washington, D.C.
King Suckerman	George Pelecanos	In a pitch-perfect evocation of 1976, deep into particular neighborhoods and streets, two basketball players cross paths with two homicidal thieves, and all hell breaks loose.	1997 Washington	Washington, D.C.
Lincoln in the Bardo	George Saunders	The President grieves over his dead son, Willie, visiting the beloved body in the cemetery, while a cast of captive spirits intervene.	2017 Georgetown	Washington, D.C.
Thank You for Smoking	Christopher Buckley	Hilarious novel in which lobbyist Nick Naylor wins big for the tobacco industry, until kidnapped and covered with nicotine patches by activists, which turns out better.	1994 Capitol Hill	Washington, D.C.
The Beautiful Things Heaven Bears	Dinaw Mengestu	In a small market, the Ethiopian owner finds solace with two friends, Congo and Kenyan-born, as story attempts to assuage loneliness.	2007 Logan Circle	Washington, D.C.
Dogs of God	Pinckney Benedict	An isolated mountain, a former boxer, dead bodies, a local drug lord, and apocalyptic outcomes in a stunning debut.	1993 El Dorado	West Virginia
Fast Lanes	Jayne Anne Phillips	Fierce first-person stories by characters seeking escape, from small towns, from memories of lost love and lost children.	1984 Buckhannon	West Virginia
Lord of Misrule	Jaimy Gordon	The world of horses and racing evoked with meticulous love, from trainers, owners, grooms to the animals themselves.	2010 Indian Mound Downs	West Virginia
Shiloh	Phyllis Reynolds Naylor	The Newbery-Award winning novel is timeless; Marty, 11, finds an abused beagle, naming him Shiloh, and works hard to rescue the dog from the violent hunter who owns him.	1992 Friendly	West Virginia
Shiner	Amy Jo Burns	An isolated mountain community is home for Wren, her snake-handling preacher father, and her beloved mother; an ill-fated miracle fractures all their lives in this arresting debut.	2020 Gladly	West Virginia
Storming Heaven	Denise Giardina	A small town is nearly destroyed by a rapacious coal company, but four residents tell their stories leading up to an epic battle for honor.	1987 Annadel	West Virginia
Strange as This Weather Has Been	Ann Pancake	Bant, a young woman, falls in love with a miner while her family and community are in peril from mountaintop removal.	2006 Appalachia	West Virginia

Sugar Run	Mesha Maren	Jodi, 17, fled her isolated mountain home after a murder; released from prison 18 years later, she meets Miranda, a single mother with two sons, returning to her Appalachian past in this taut, lyrical debut novel.	2018 Alderson	West Virginia
The Killing Ground	Mary Lee Settle	A woman returns home to investigate her brother's murder, uncovering two decades of the town's history and heritage.	1982 Canona	West Virginia
The Marrowbone Marble Company	Glenn Taylor	A rambunctious and lyrical novel of a glass-blower sent to war in 1941, who upon his return creates an entire town of equality and beauty.	2010 Huntington	West Virginia
The Stories of Breece D'J Pancake	Breece D'J Pancake	The incomparable sole book, of young men and women pained by love for Appalachian landscapes of coal mines, truck driving, dying towns and fierce attempts at affection.	1983 Milton	West Virginia
A Map of the World	Jane Hamilton	On a family farm, Alice, a nurse and mother, loses everything when a child dies, and she is imprisoned.	1994 Prairie Center	Wisconsin
A Wild, Cold State	Debra Monroe	In the icy terrain of natural world and rural towns, men and women fight for love and loyalty.	1995 Hayward	Wisconsin
All This Could Be Different	Sarah Thankam Mathews	Sneha and her friends navigate crushing workloads, searches for intimacy, their parents' expectations, and their own confusion about love and community.	2022 Milwaukee	Wisconsin
American Wife	Curtis Sittenfeld	Alice Lindgren, raised in a small town, marries a man who becomes President, and leaves for a new difficult life in Washington.	2008 Halcyon	Wisconsin
Caddie Woodlawn	Carol Ryrie Brink	In the classic children's novel, a pioneer family in 1864, Caddie and her brothers roam the woods, attempting to befriend those indigenous people to whom the woods actually belonged.	1936 Dunnville	Wisconsin
Driftless	David Rhodes	This classic novel set in "the Driftless" region is a portrait of a completely isolated village whose inhabitants maintain their own astonishing memories, secrets, and histories of early American life.	2008 Wonewoc	Wisconsin
Drowning Ruth	Christina Schwartz	Historical thriller set in 1919, when war, devotion and obsession mark the life of a nurse and her daughter.	2000 Nagawaukee	Wisconsin
Homeland Elegies	Ayad Akhtar	A furious reckoning between father and son, an autofiction about ideas of success and truth, a story of Pakistan past and American present, this searing novel about politics and war, about family and love, by the winner of the Pulitzer Prize.	2020 Brookfield	Wisconsin
House of Heroes	Mary La Chappelle	Ten powerful stories of people struggling to care for themselves and others, in landscapes that require moral decisions and tenderness.	1988 Whitefish Bay	Wisconsin

Little House in the Big Woods	Laura Ingalls Wilder	The first novel in the beloved series, of pioneer daily life, family, and survival in the woods.	1932 Pepin	Wisconsin
Off Keck Road	Mona Simpson	After college, a young woman comes home to devote herself to her family and community, without irony, with some consternation about men, with humor.	2000 Green Bay	Wisconsin
Raft of Stars	Andrew J. Graff	In 1994, best friends “Fish” and “Bread” flee when a father is murdered, and as they traverse the deep northern woods, they are hunted by the true killer, in this atmospheric and classic thriller.	2021 Peshtigo	Wisconsin
Real Life	Brandon Taylor	A PhD student in neuroscience, from a poor family in Alabama, struggles for identity as the sole gay black man in his department, in a very white university, in this stirring novel.	2020 Madison	Wisconsin
Shotgun Lovesongs	Nickolas Butler	Four friends raised in a rural small town – a famous musician, a rodeo star, a commodities trader, and the one who stayed home to work the family farm – are reunited at a wedding, in a bestselling portrait of place, love and loyalty.	2014 Eleva	Wisconsin
Sister	A. Manette Ansay	A sister and her beloved brother are bullied by their brutal father, until their entire family dissolves, in a novel with lyricism and without sentiment.	1996 Port Washington	Wisconsin
The Deep End of the Ocean	Jacquelyn Mitchard	A young boy is kidnapped, and his family endures years of anguish, guilt and searching.	1996 Madison	Wisconsin
The Dive from Clausen’s Pier	Ann Packer	A restless young woman watches her fiancé’s reckless dive change their lives forever, in the divide between ambition and home.	2002 Madison	Wisconsin
The End of Always	Randi Davenport	A beautiful debut novel set in 1907, when Marie, 17, tries to become truly American, to find love, and escape the violent family legacy of her father, who may have killed her mother.	2014 Waukesha	Wisconsin
The Story of Edgar Sawtelle	David Wroblewski	The epic story of a boy who cannot speak, whose true relationships are with dogs and his father, in evanescent evocation of the natural world and senses.	2008 Chequamegon National Forest	Wisconsin
Wingshooters	Nina Revoyr	Elegaic, raw and unforgettable novel of Michelle, Japanese and white, raised by her paternal grandparents amid beautiful landscape and terrifying racism.	2011 Deerhorn	Wisconsin
Close Range	Annie Proulx	Stories that remain etched forever as the desolate, beautiful, lonely landscape, mountain and highway, and the people moving through, searching, seething, settling.	1999 Sheridan	Wyoming

Cowboys and East Indians	Nina McConigley	Transcendent stories featuring Indian-born families running motels, an adopted Chennai-born young woman examining her identity, and a wife helping her husband's cowboy friend cross-dress in her saris, an award-winning collection.	2014 Torrington	Wyoming
Heart Mountain	Gretel Ehrlich	The tragic history of 10,000 Japanese-Americans interned at a camp, through their own eyes, as well as the ranchers and others fighting their own wars, and racial prejudice.	1988 Heart Mountain	Wyoming
Hell is Empty	Craig Johnson	Sheriff Walt Longmire faces his most evil enemy, a psychotic child killer who leads him into a blizzard in the Bighorns.	2011 Absaroka	Wyoming
My Friend Flicka	Mary O'Hara	A dreamy young boy growing up on a ranch is given charge of a filly horse with wild blood, and their bond is unbreakable.	1941 Cheyenne	Wyoming
Open Season	CJ Box	The first in the Joe Pickett series, as a game warden in a place where wild game, crime, and the big landscape make for great characters and mysteries.	2001 Ten Sleep	Wyoming
Rebel Powers	Richard Bausch	After their Vietnam veteran son is imprisoned for writing bad checks, his military family moves to a boarding house near the prison, evaluating their deep losses.	1994 Wilson Creek	Wyoming
Shane	Jack Schaefer	A boy and his family homestead in the 1880s, when a mysterious stranger shows up and changes everything in their river valley, in this slim elegant classic of the West made into an iconic film.	1949 Kelly	Wyoming